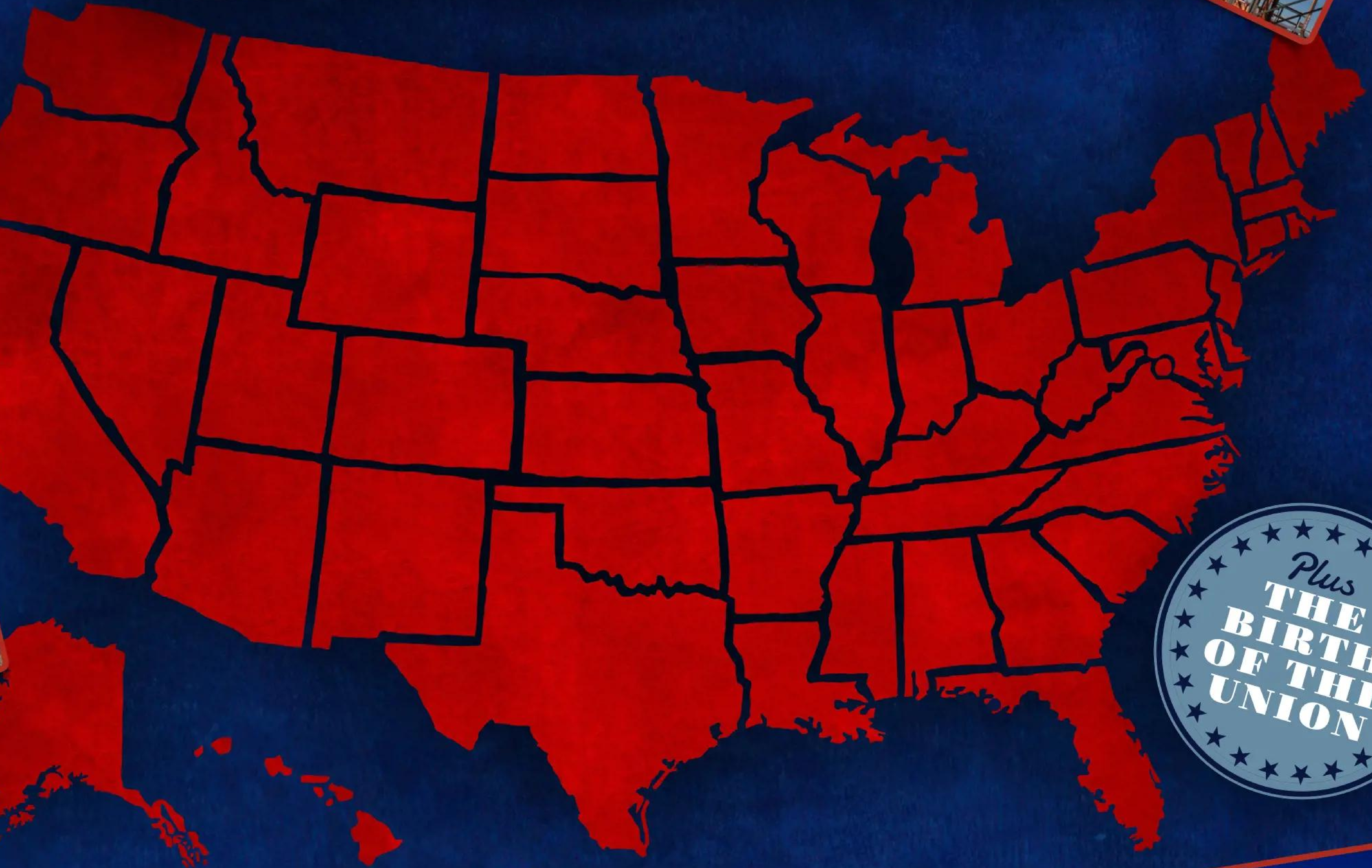
NEW

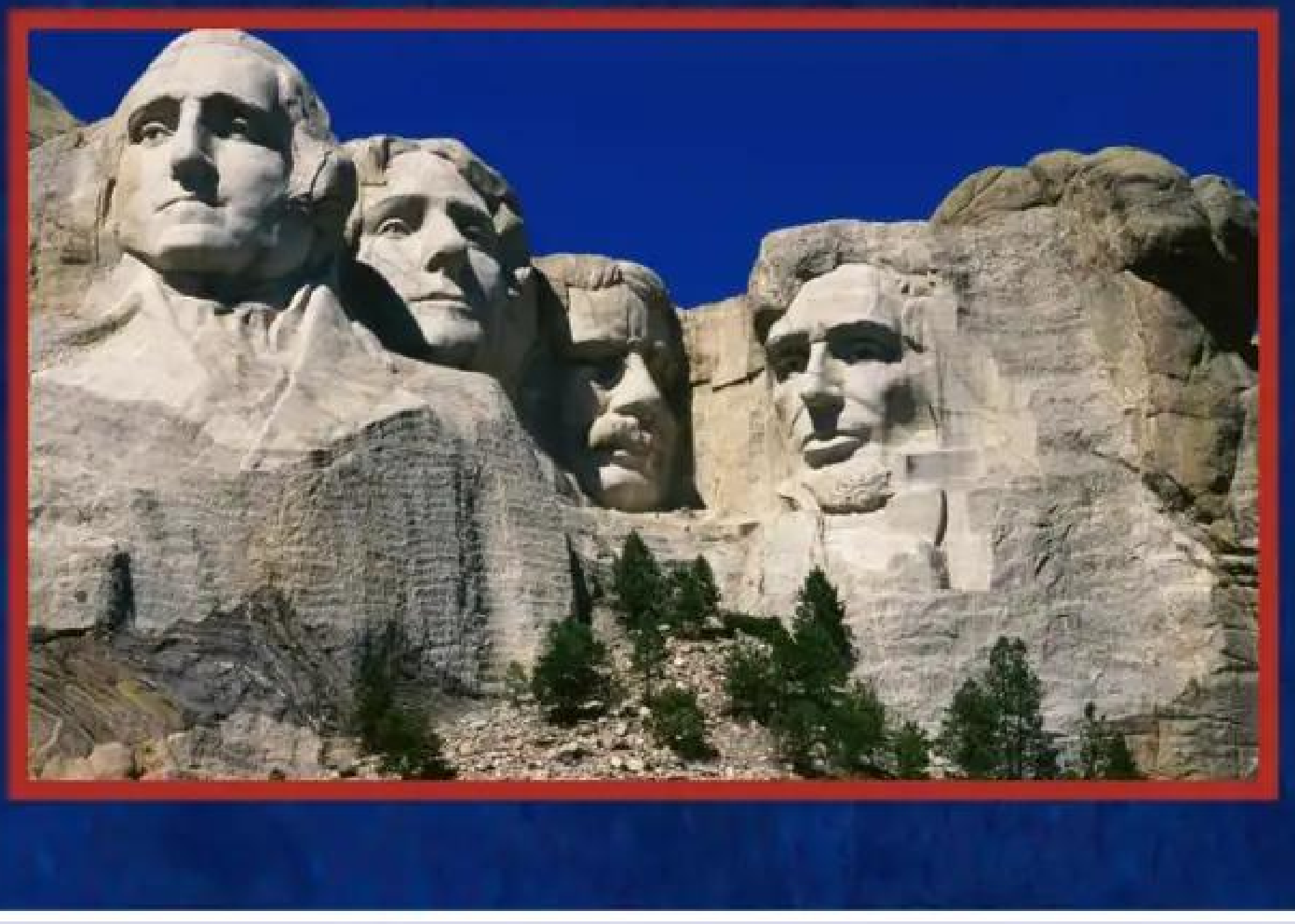
# USA STATE by STATE

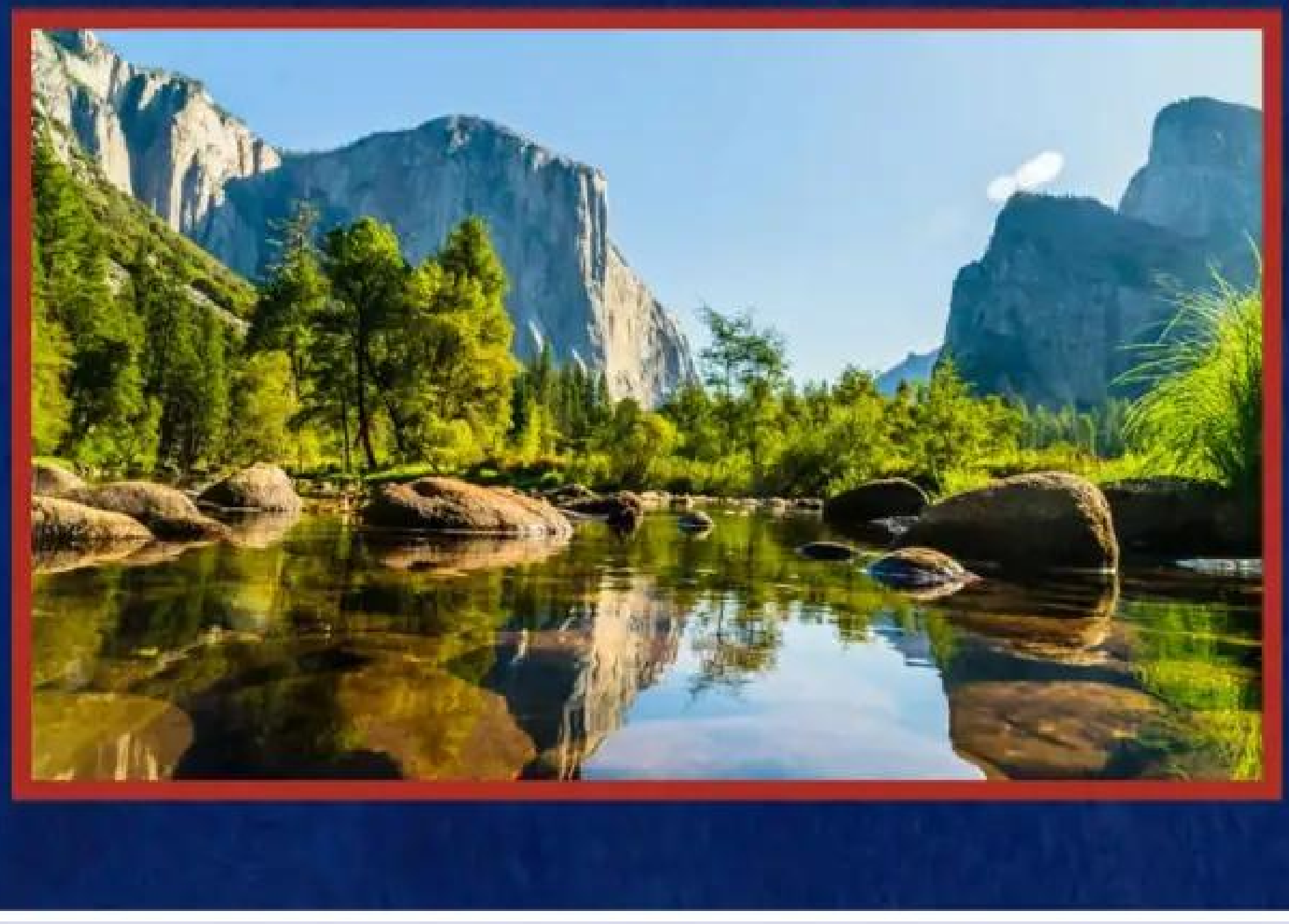
## JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE 50 STATES FROM ALABAMA TO WYOMING

BLUE ORIGIN



*Plus* THE BIRTH OF THE UNION



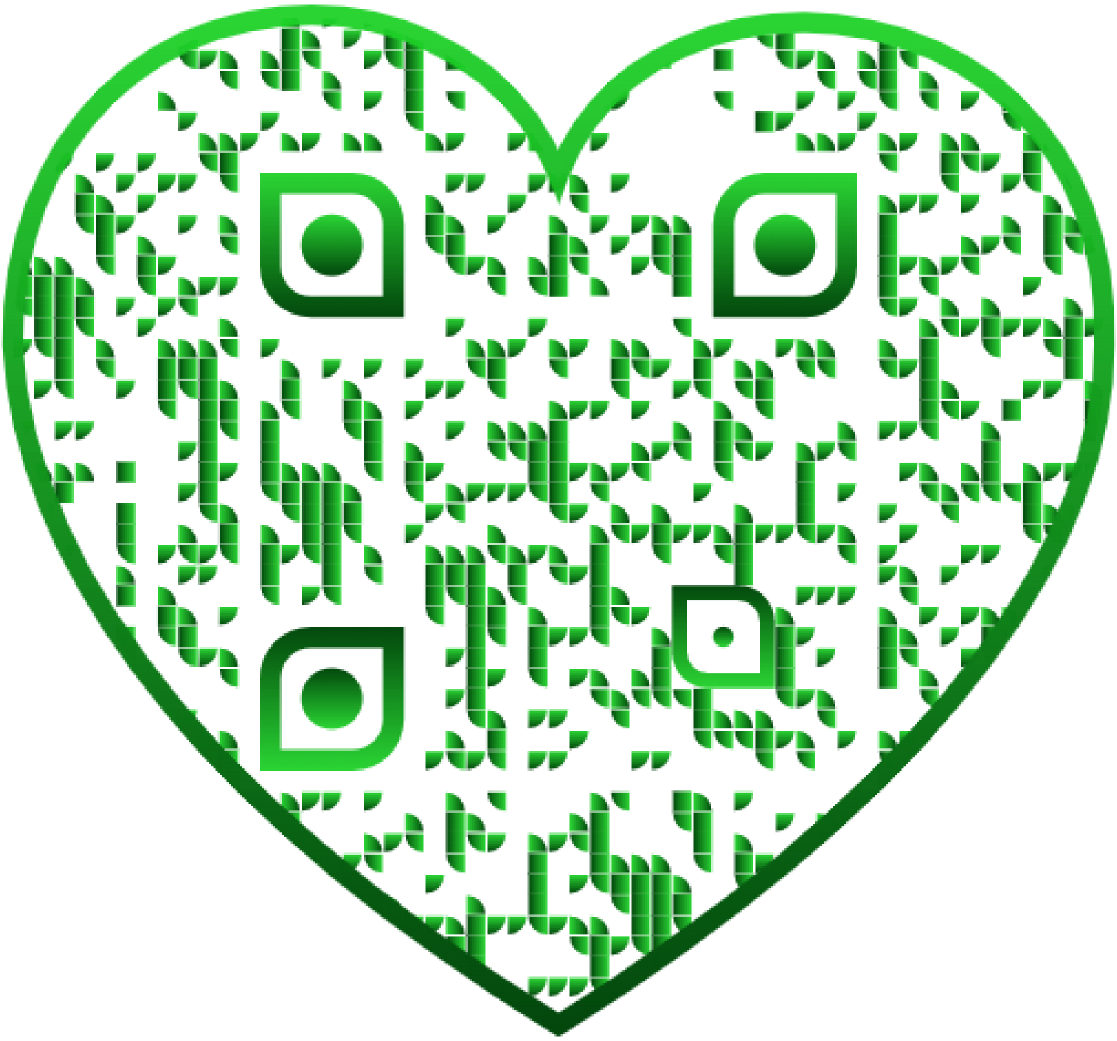


Digital Edition

FUTURE

FIRST EDITION

CULTURAL ICONS ★ US TERRITORIES ★ FAMOUS LANDMARKS & MORE



# USA STATE by STATE

## Welcome

**From Alabama to Wyoming, join us on a journey through the fascinating history of the United States of America.**

We'll explore how this great nation came to be, chart how each of the 50 states joined the Union and travel to the remote locations that are part of the US without actually being classed as states.

Examine the colonial roots of New England and the industrial heritage of the Mid-Atlantic states in the North East, voyage through the rural heartlands of the Midwest, get acquainted with the rich cultural traditions of the Southern states, delve beyond the cowboy culture of the Western mountain states, encounter the innovative American dream-influenced identity of the West Coast Pacific states and cruise through the diverse history of the five permanently populated US territories. The many wonders of the Land of the Free await you… ★

Images on spread: Adobe Stock

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Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

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# The BIRTH of the UNION

The United States of America was formed after thirteen British colonies in North America rebelled against their home country and declared independence

**Words Tom Garner**

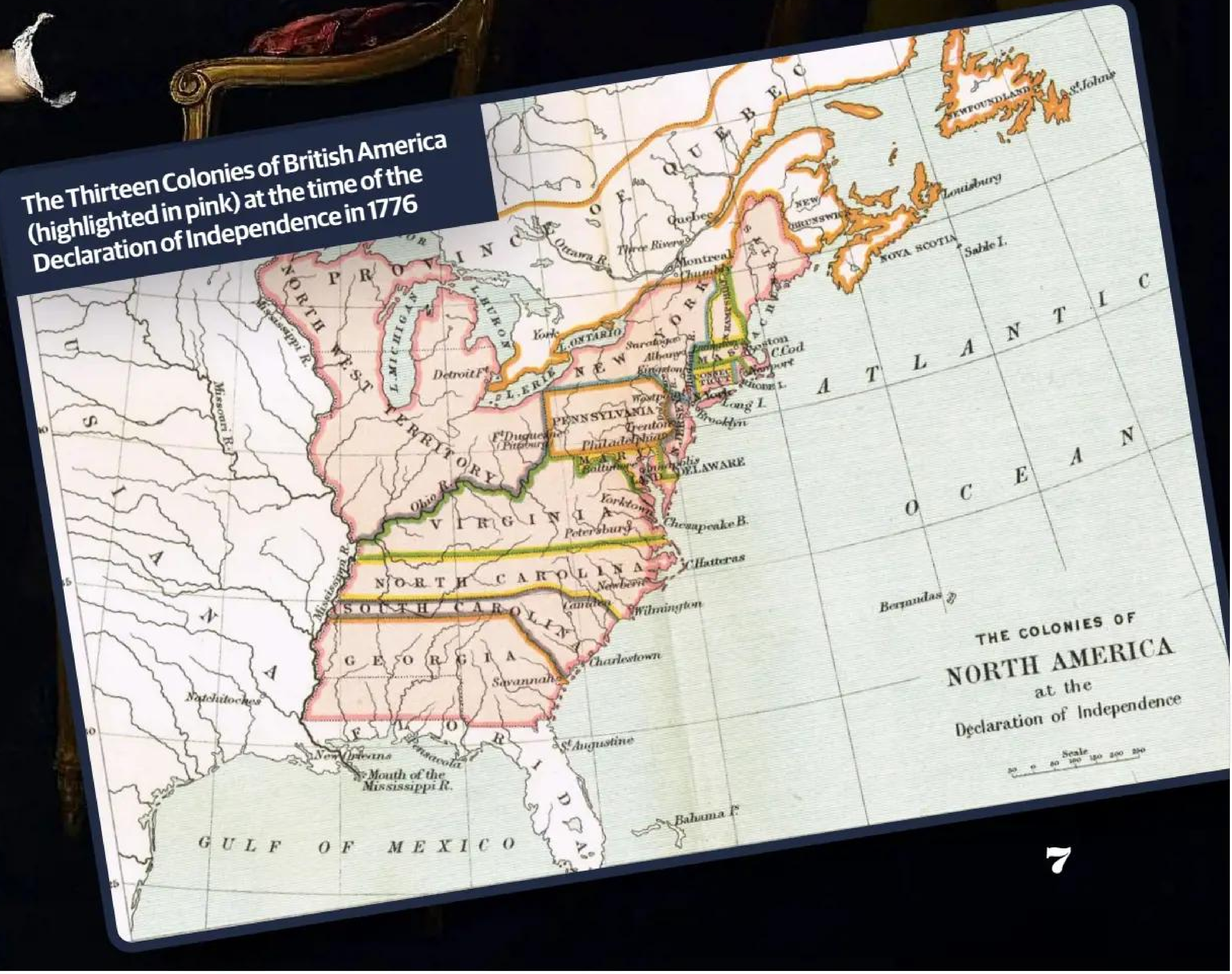
Images on spread: Alamy; AdobeStock

**There had been a permanent English colonial presence in North America since the establishment of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607.** English and Scottish colonies then grew to stretch from Canada in the north to the Mississippi River in the west and Florida in the south. Following the Act of Union between England and Scotland in 1707 and the creation of Great Britain, these colonies became known as 'British America,' with a nucleus of 'Thirteen Colonies' along the Atlantic coast.

The Thirteen Colonies were divided into New England (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island), the Middle Colonies (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania), and the Southern Colonies (Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia). While they pledged allegiance to the British Crown, these colonies were largely self-governing and became increasingly independent-minded during the mid-18th century.

## Outbreak of War

In the mid-1770s, British attempts to assert direct control prompted the Thirteen Colonies to demand greater political representation in Parliament. When these requests were rejected, the colonies began to collaborate and asserted their "Rights as Englishmen" through a legislative 'Continental Congress' starting in 1774 in Philadelphia.



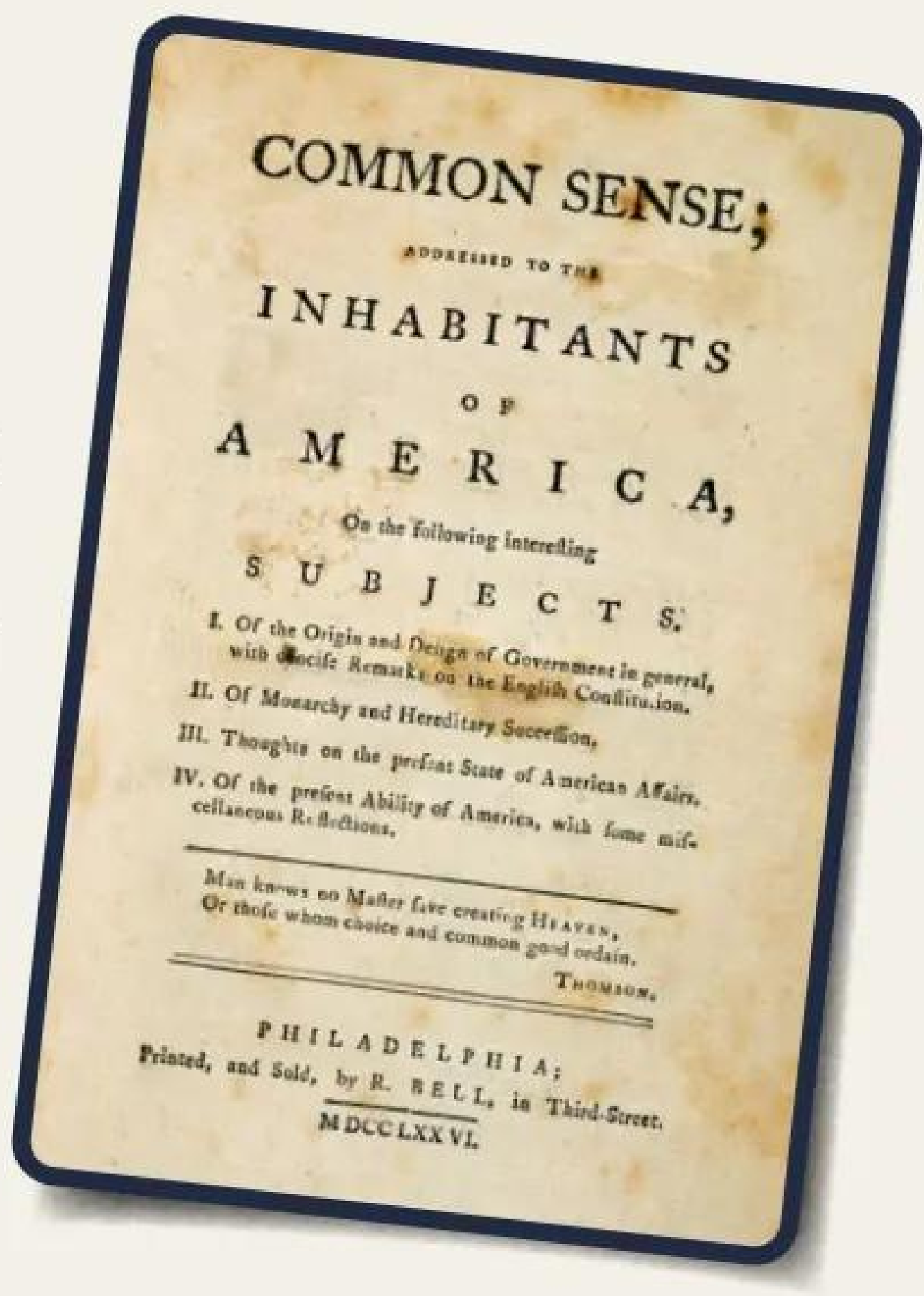
The Thirteen Colonies of British America (highlighted in pink) at the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1776

THE COLONIES OF
NORTH AMERICA
at the
Declaration of Independence
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
NORTH WEST TERRITORY
NEW YORK
PENNSYLVANIA
DELAWARE
VIRGINIA
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
NEWFOUNDLAND
NOVA SCOTIA
NEW BRUNSWICK
ATLANTIC OCEAN
GULF OF MEXICO
L. MICHIGAN
L. HURON
L. ONTARIO
L. ERIE
Quebec
Montreal
Boston
Philadelphia
Charlestown
Savannah
St Augustine
New Orleans
Bermudas
Bahama Is
Scale

Tensions grew as Britain deployed more soldiers, particularly in Massachusetts. Hostilities broke out on 19 April 1775 at the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which prompted Congress to form a 'Continental Army' led by George Washington who was a former British colonial officer.

After Britain rejected Congress's 'Olive Branch Petition' in July 1775, King George III declared the colonies to be in open rebellion. Although at war with its own colonies, Britain had already been fighting the rebellious colonists (known as "Patriots") in Massachusetts, including the Siege of Boston and the Battle of Bunker Hill. Despite a failed Patriot invasion of Quebec in late 1775, the rebellion spread throughout the colonies.

The war was not only a conflict between Patriots and the British but it was also a civil war. A significant number of colonists, known as "Loyalists," remained loyal to Britain and fought alongside British soldiers against the Patriots.



COMMON SENSE;

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS

OF

AMERICA,

On the following intereſting

SUBJECTS.

I. Of the Origin and Deſign of Government in general, with conciſe Remarks on the Engliſh Conſtitution.

II. Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succeſſion.

III. Thoughts on the preſent State of American Affairs.

IV. Of the preſent Ability of America, with ſome miſcellaneous Reflections.

Man knows no Maſter ſave creating HEAVEN,
Or thoſe whom choice and common good ordain.
THOMSON.

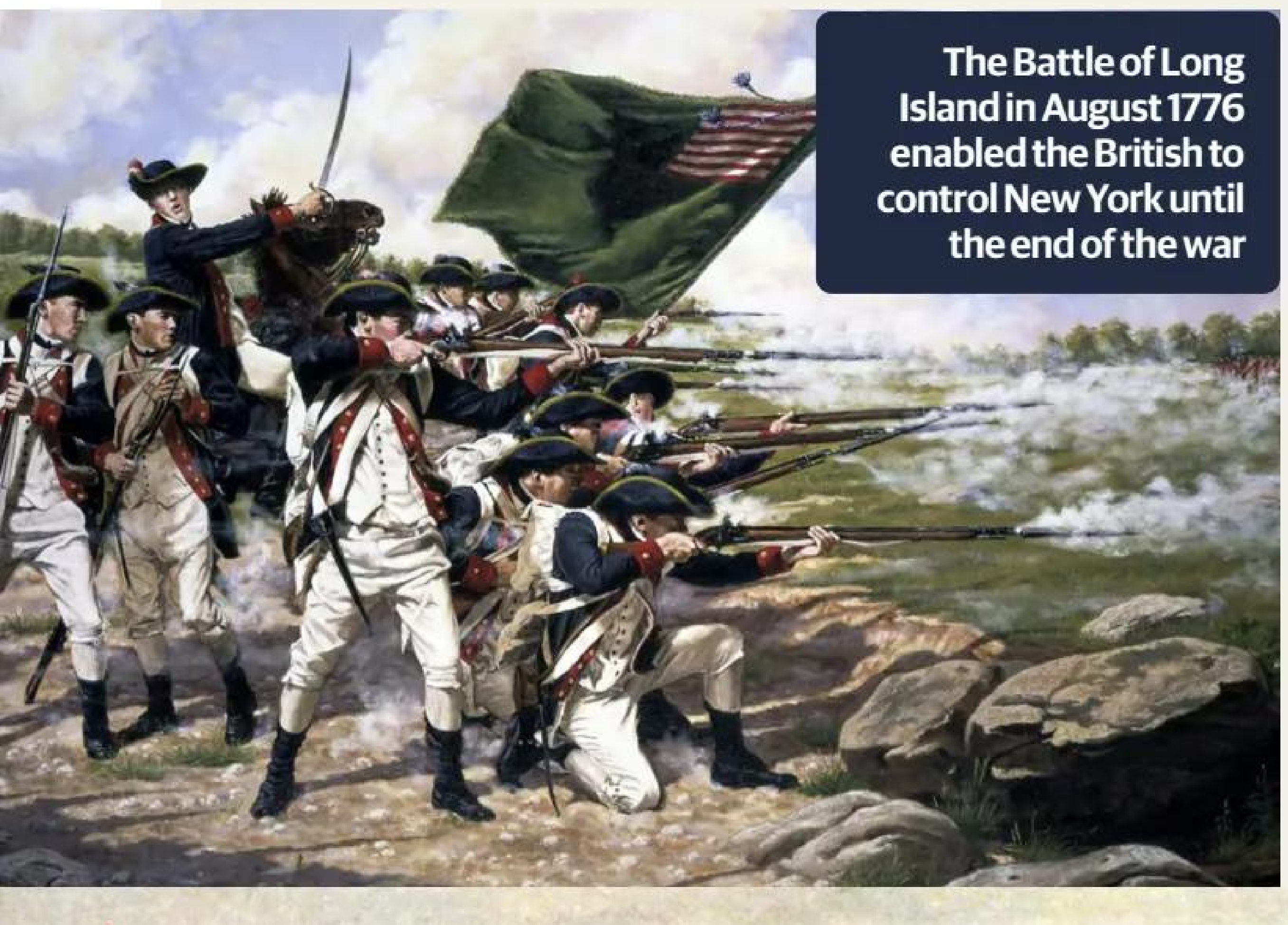
PHILADELPHIA;
Printed, and Sold, by R. BELL, in Third-Street.
MDCCLXXVI.

## Declaration of Independence

As the war continued into 1776, public opinion increasingly favoured independence. This shift was partly driven by the course of the war and the influential pamphlet *Common Sense* by the English-born radical writer Thomas Paine. Published in January 1776, it made a compelling case for independence, which was formalised months later.

On 4 July 1776, the Second Continental Congress ratified the 'Declaration of Independence' in Philadelphia. Primarily written by Thomas Jefferson and overseen by a 'Committee of Five' including John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, the Declaration was the founding document of the United States of America. The phrase "all men are created equal" encapsulated its revolutionary ideals, while the text also asserted the right to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration severed formal ties with Britain, although the war would continue. The British won significant victories in New York and the Carolinas and even occupied Philadelphia during 1777-78. However, their logistical difficulties from fighting across an ocean hindered their long-term success.

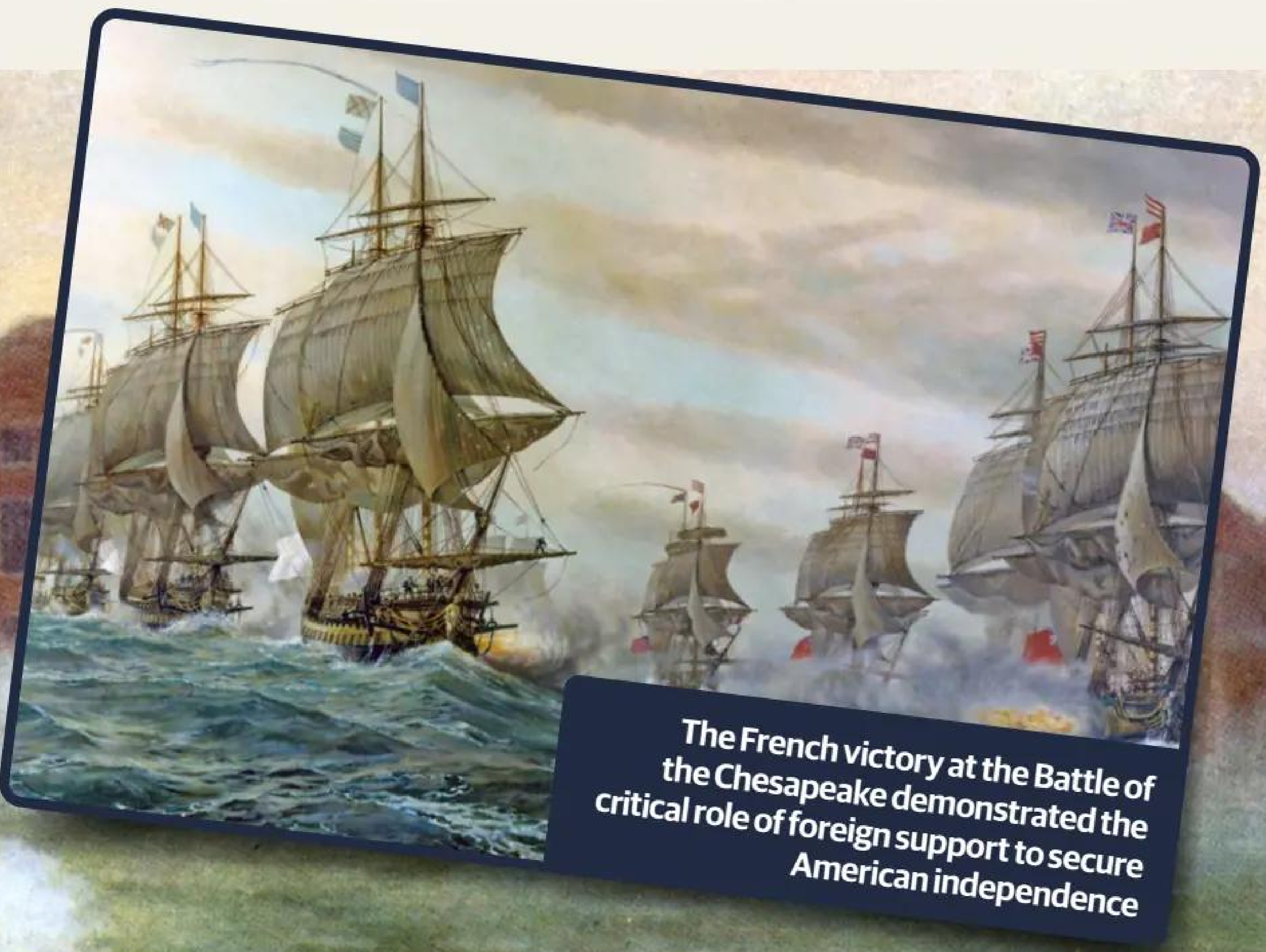


The Battle of Long Island in August 1776 enabled the British to control New York until the end of the war

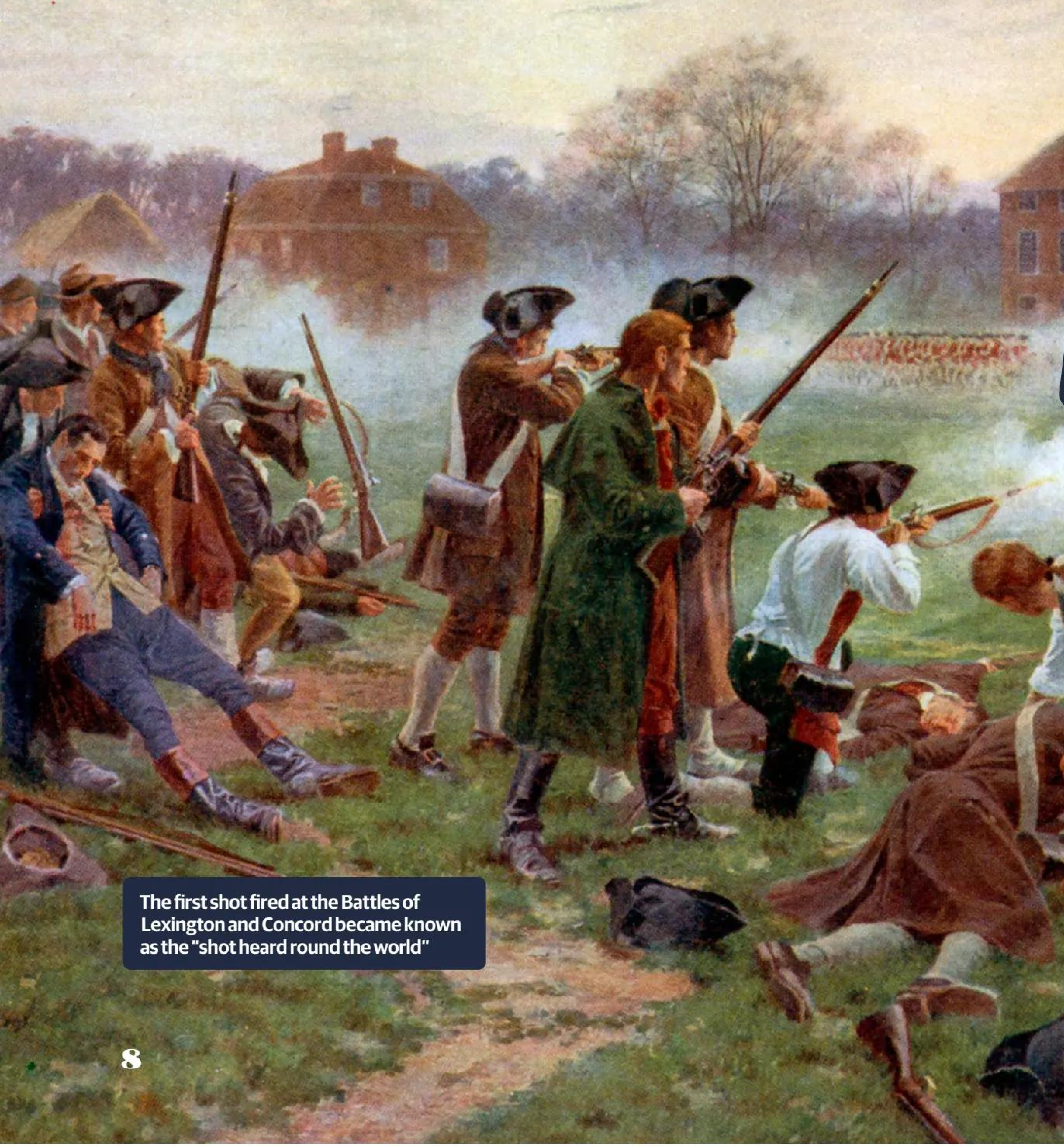
> "King George III declared the colonies to be in open rebellion"

## Diplomatic Recognition

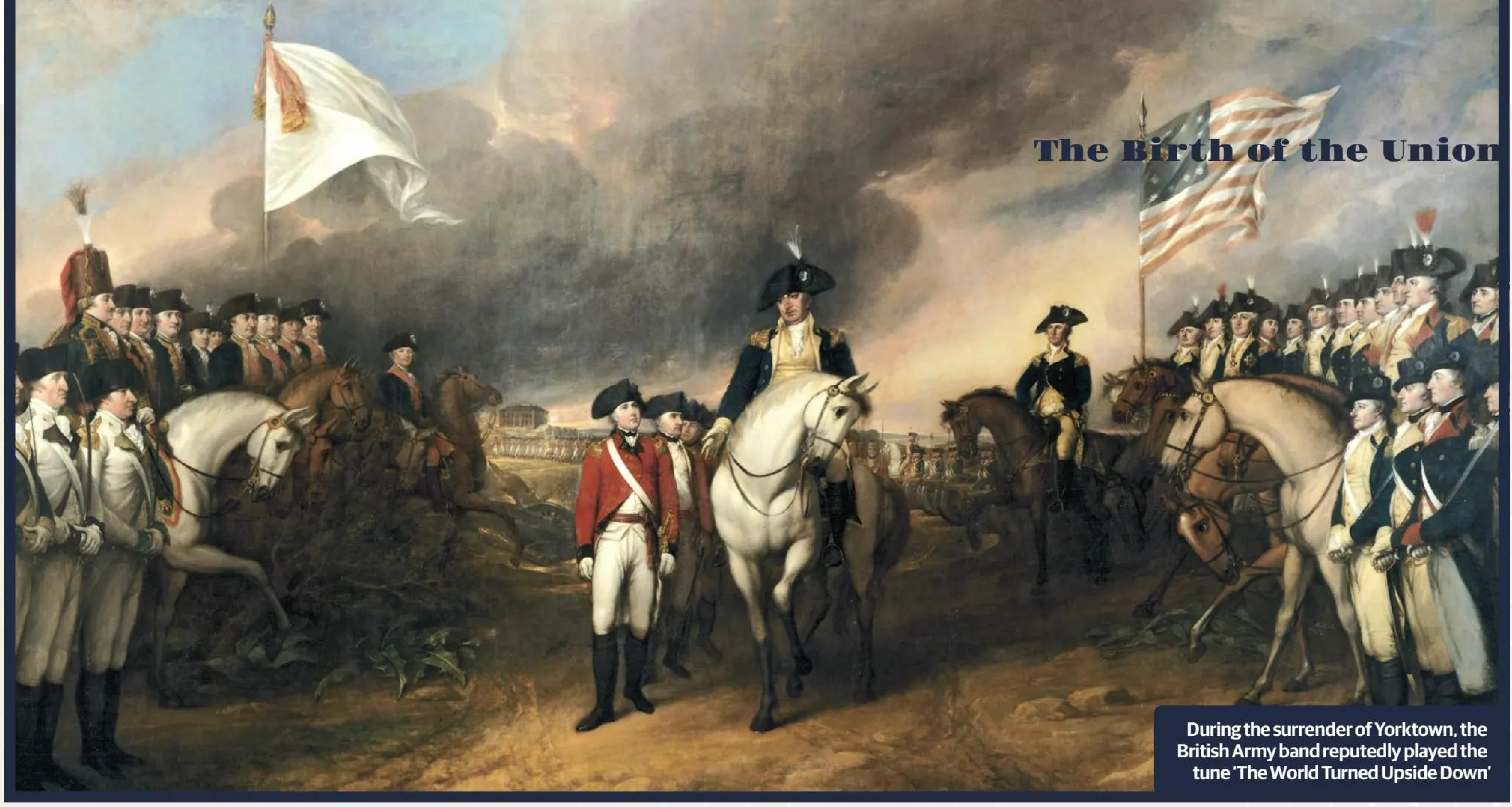
The British suffered a setback in 1777 after losing the second battle at Saratoga in October. This victory for the United States gave them the leverage to persuade France to join the war. French aid, including naval support, money, soldiers and diplomatic recognition



The French victory at the Battle of the Chesapeake demonstrated the critical role of foreign support to secure American independence



The first shot fired at the Battles of Lexington and Concord became known as the "shot heard round the world"



During the surrender of Yorktown, the British Army band reputedly played the tune 'The World Turned Upside Down'

would prove crucial. Meanwhile, Spain and the Dutch Republic also recognised the United States, which further legitimised the new republic.

Despite this, Britain remained a formidable opponent, especially in the southern colonies. In 1778, they captured Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina in May 1780. Over 5,000 American soldiers were captured at Charleston which was one of the Continental Army's worst defeats but the tide of war was soon to turn.

## Siege of Yorktown

By 1781, French and American forces were operating together along the Atlantic seaboard. The French won a significant naval victory at the Battle of the Chesapeake in September 1781 which prevented British reinforcements from reaching Lord Cornwallis's besieged army at Yorktown, Virginia.

Cornwallis was trapped with around 8,000-9,000 British and German soldiers. After a three-week siege, he surrendered to Washington and the French commander, the Comte de Rochambeau, on 19 October 1781. The surrender of over 7,000 British-German soldiers at Yorktown was a decisive victory for the Americans and led to the resignation of British Prime Minister Lord North.

## Treaty of Paris

Yorktown marked the end of offensive operations in North America with subsequent negotiations between Britain and the United States lasting for almost two years. The Treaty of Paris was finally signed on 3 September 1783, which officially ended the American Revolutionary War and recognised the United States' independence.

The treaty set new borders, with Britain retaining control of what is now Canada, and the western boundary of the United States being set along the Mississippi River while Spain controlled Florida. After eight years of war, the United States of America was now a free, independent nation. ★

## FOUNDING OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

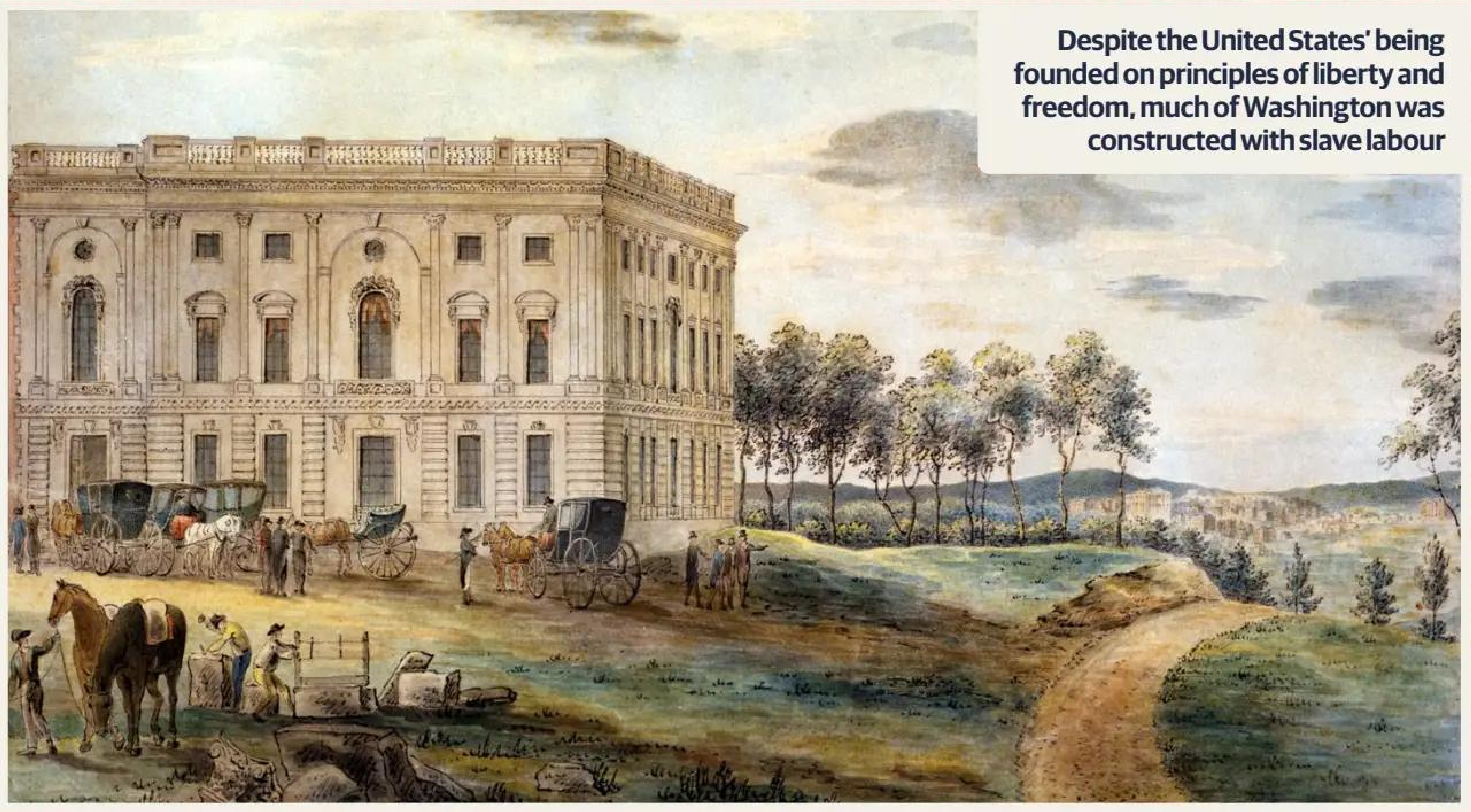
**The capital of the United States was founded by the US Constitution and holds a unique place in American civic life**

When the US Constitution of the United States was drawn up in 1789, it called for the establishment of a federal capital that would be under the exclusive jurisdiction of the US Congress. Therefore, what is now Washington, D.C. (District of Colombia) is unique in that it is the only American city that is not part of any one State and is also not a State itself.

The location of the new capital was debated between the northern and southern states who had different vested interests. As a compromise, President George Washington chose a site along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers with land that was ceded from Maryland and Virginia. Founded in 1790, the city was named in honour of the president with the surrounding land of the 'District of Colombia' named after the explorer Christopher Columbus.

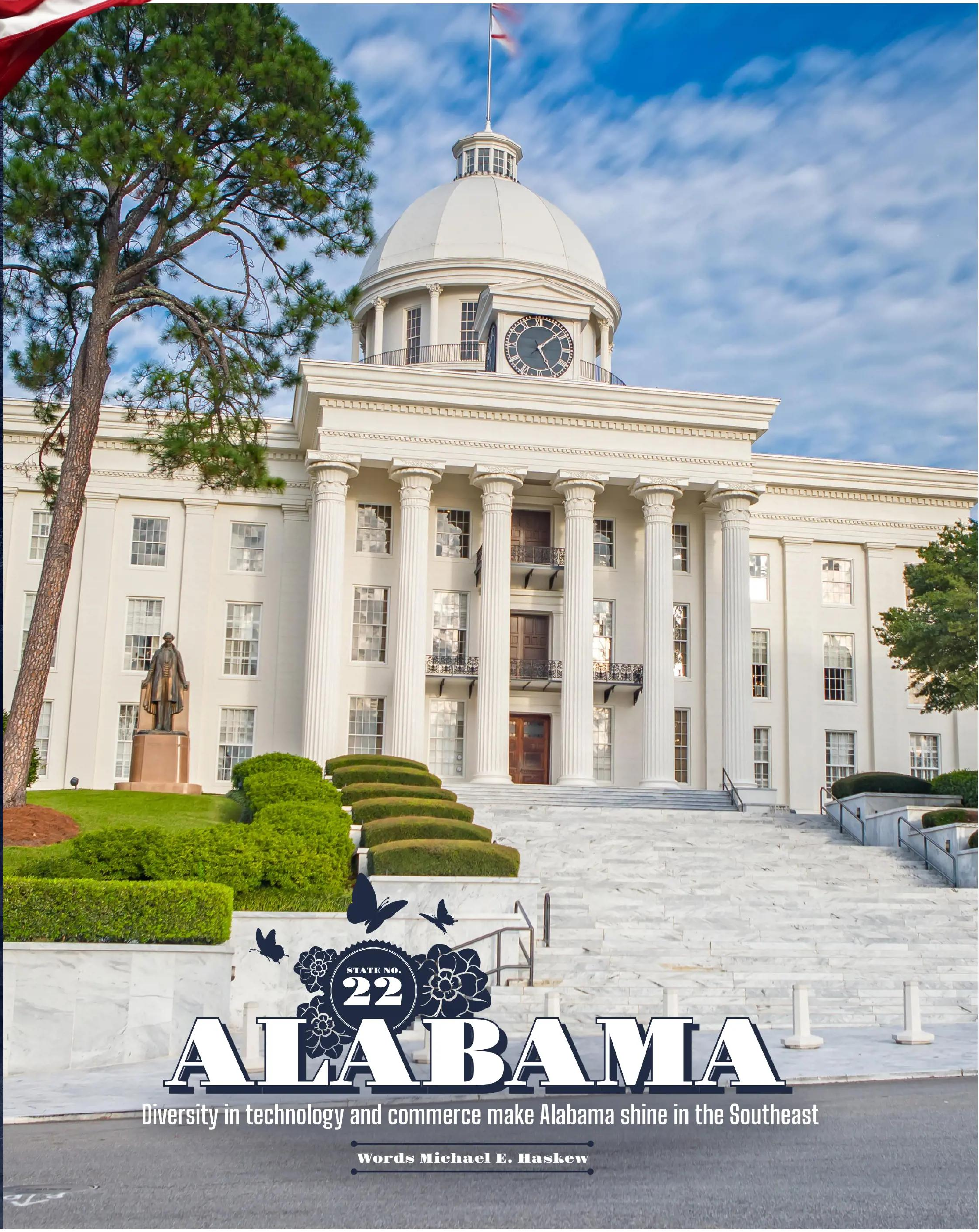
President Washington appointed the French-born architect Pierre Charles L'Enfant to design the city. L'Enfant designed the city on a grid system with wide boulevards and ceremonial spaces with a 'Congress House' (now the Capitol Building) at the centre. Other grand buildings and boulevards were planned such as a 'Grand Avenue' (now the National Mall), Pennsylvania Avenue and a residence for the head of state known as the 'President's House'.

Construction for the latter began in 1792 and it was completed in 1800. The 'President's House' became better known as the 'White House' and it remains the official residence of the American president. Ironically, George Washington had left office and died before the house was completed and so its first official resident was the second US president, John Adams.



Despite the United States' being founded on principles of liberty and freedom, much of Washington was constructed with slave labour

Images : Alamy; Adobe Stock;



STATE NO. 22

# ALABAMA

Diversity in technology and commerce make Alabama shine in the Southeast

Words Michael E. Haskew

The Alabama State Capitol is located on Capitol Hill, Montgomery

## BIO

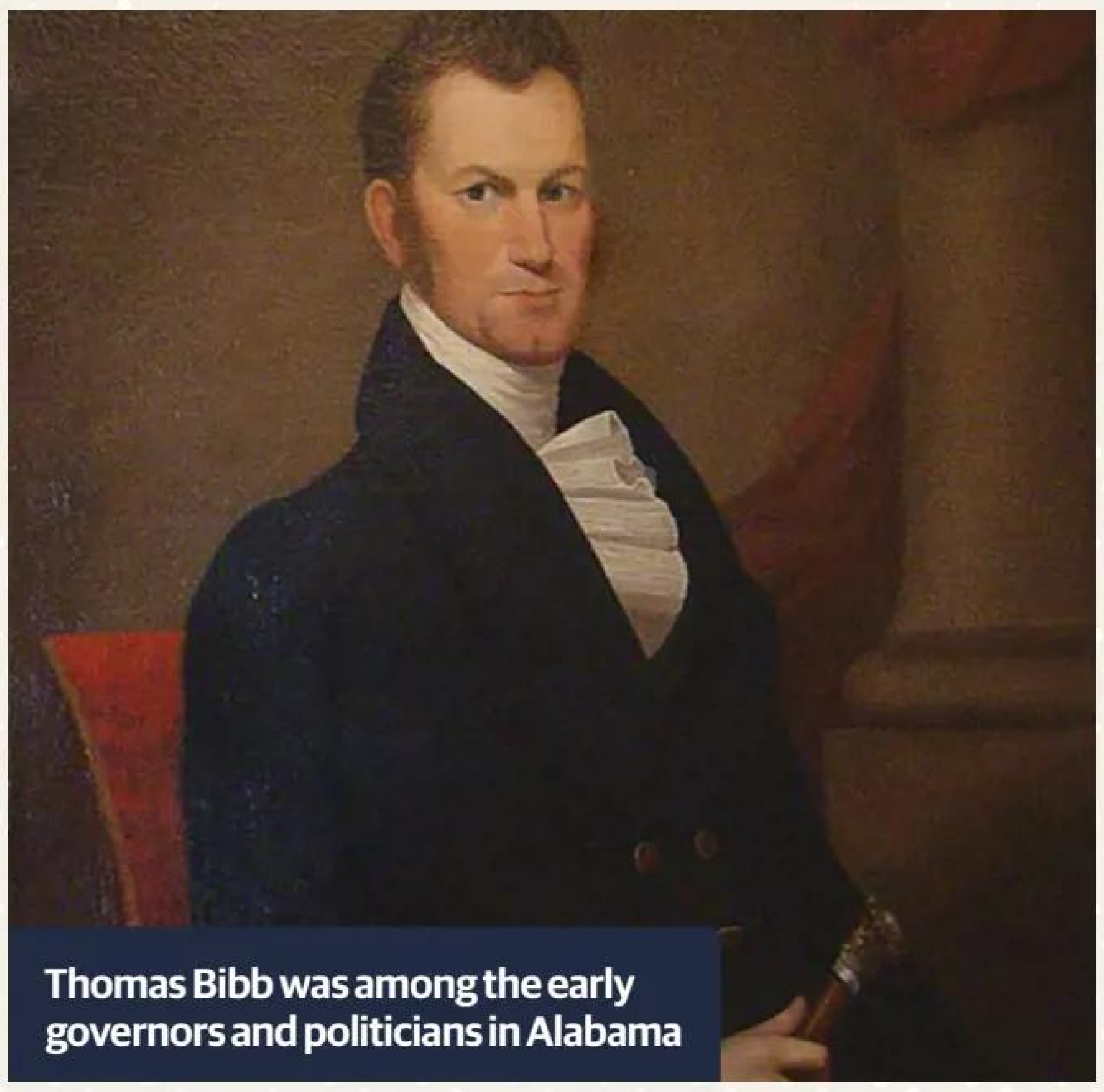
**Nickname:** Heart of Dixie, The Cotton State
**Anthem:** 'Alabama'
**Admitted to the Union:** 14 December 1819
**Capital:** Montgomery
**Population:** 5,157,699
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**Sharing a common and ancient heritage with other states of the Southeast, Alabama progressed from a territory of the United States to full statehood in only two years, becoming the 22nd US state on 14 December 1819.** The capital was located first at Huntsville in the north, and then moved to Cahaba and Tuscaloosa in the central part of the state before finally resting in Montgomery in 1846.

Brothers William Wyatt and Thomas Bibb were instrumental in Alabama's path to statehood. Wyatt, a former US senator from Georgia, served as the first territorial and state governor while Thomas later was elected governor as well. Charles Tait, another Georgia senator, was prominent in leading the bill for Alabama statehood through the US Senate. He earned the nickname 'Patron of Alabama' and served in numerous judicial roles across the state. Other key figures in the early state government included Judge Harry Toulmin, Henry Hitchcock, and Reuben Saffold II, who laid the legislative foundation for progress from territory to US state.

## Crucible of War

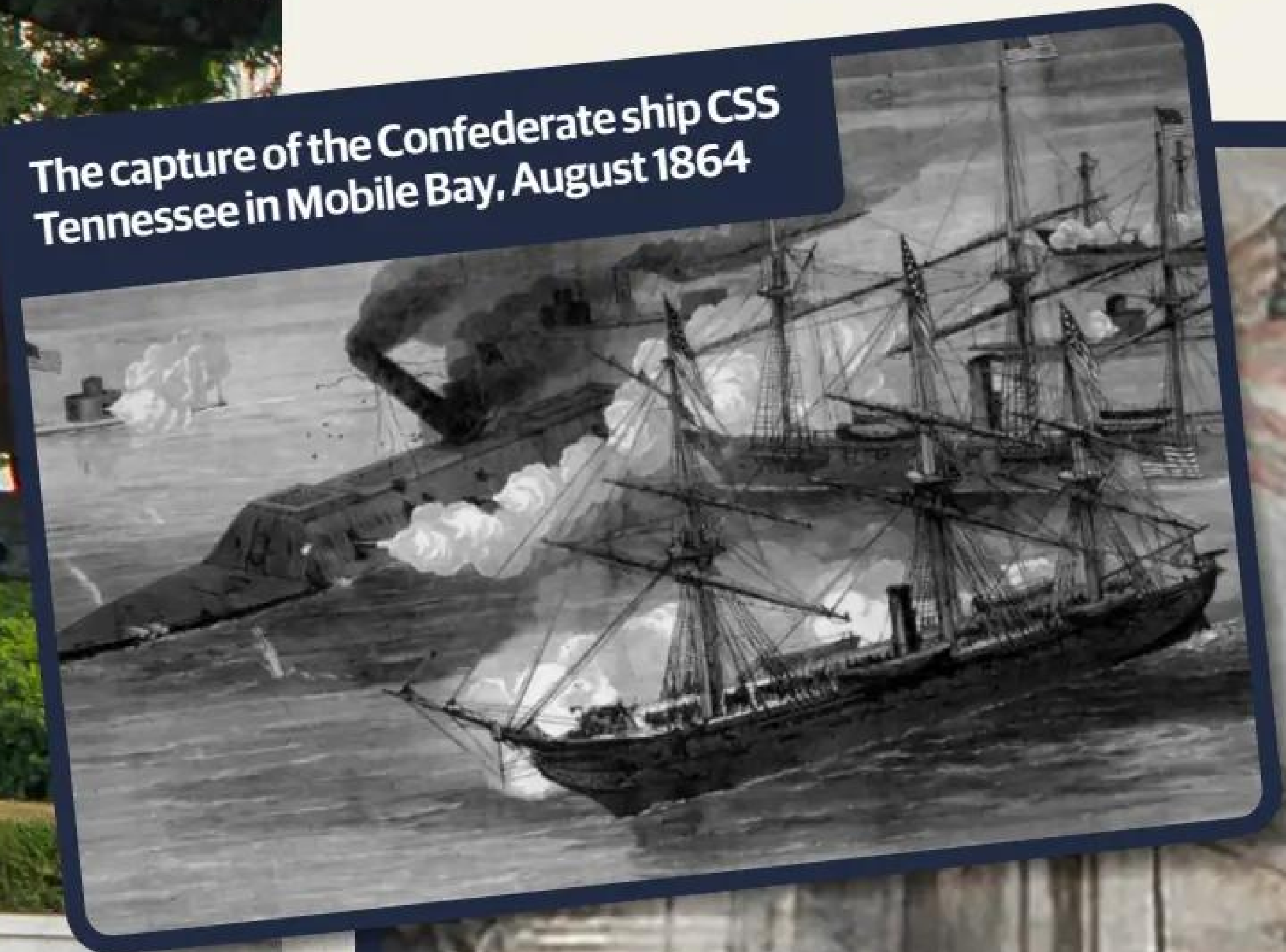
Alabama's economic development centred early on agrarian enterprise, and by 1860, roughly 45 percent of the state's 964,000 inhabitants were enslaved Blacks brought to the region to provide a source of cheap labour in the cotton fields, harvesting of a variety of crops, and in the households of wealthy planters. It is important to note, however, that on the eve of the Civil War about 75 percent of Alabama's White population were subsistence farmers who did not own slaves.



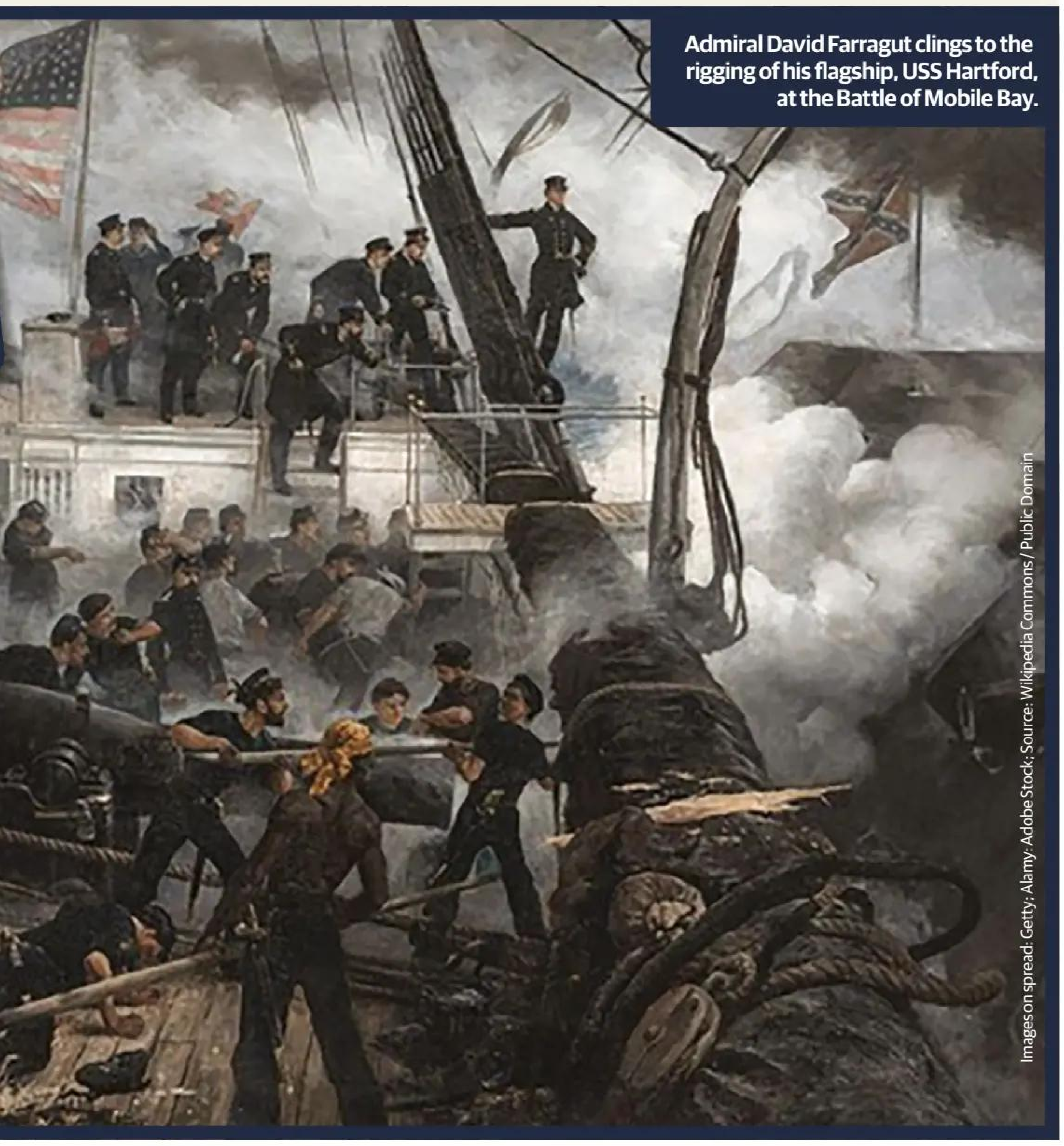
Thomas Bibb was among the early governors and politicians in Alabama

As the question of slavery polarized the nation, secessionist fervour ran high in Alabama, fuelled by prominent Democrats of the 'Fire-Eater' faction of the party such as William Lounds Yancey. Alabama formally seceded from the United States on 11 January 1861, the fourth southern state to do so. The first capital of the Confederacy was established at Montgomery and later moved in May 1861 to Richmond Virginia.

During the Civil War, the most prominent events involving Alabama included its Confederate 15th Infantry assault against Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, and the 1864 Battle



The capture of the Confederate ship CSS Tennessee in Mobile Bay, August 1864



Admiral David Farragut clings to the rigging of his flagship, USS Hartford, at the Battle of Mobile Bay.

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

of Mobile Bay. During the latter, Union Admiral David Farragut uttered his famous cry, “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!”

Alabama officially returned to the Union on 13 July 1868, as Governor Robert M. Patton played a key role in the revitalisation of the state and Wager Swayne led the transitional Freedmen’s Bureau in the state, dedicated to the emancipation of freed Blacks and the recovery of the economy in the midst of civil unrest that followed.

## New Economic Identity

After the Civil War, economic diversity became a catalyst for recovery as Alabama experienced Reconstruction with Federal troops occupying the state from 1865 through 1877, when President Rutherford B. Hayes ordered the withdrawal of the last of these.

Meanwhile, the textile industry emerged in Huntsville, Birmingham, and Anniston by the 1870s. At the same time, the port of Mobile became a major hub of shipping and trade, its deep water allowing cargo vessels to enter the harbour where the Mobile River, formed by the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

The iron and steel industry took hold in Birmingham in the mid- to late 1800s. The production of these essential components of construction gave Birmingham the nickname ‘Pittsburgh of the South,’ and brought the area some measure of wealth and prosperity. In 1904, the 17m (56 ft) statue of Vulcan, Roman god of the forge and metalworking, was raised high atop a 38m (124 ft) pedestal on Red Mountain in homage to the industry.

Economic revitalization characterized the state of Alabama during the first half of the 20th century, even as the disadvantaged sought opportunity to raise their standard of living. By 1941, the US government had established Redstone Arsenal, a nexus of missile and rocket research in the midst of World War II, in Huntsville. In 1960, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) located the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in the city, and research conducted by Wernher von Braun and his team of aerospace engineers led to the development of the Saturn V rocket and manned missions to the moon.

Today, Huntsville, Alabama’s largest city by population, thrives with numerous major aerospace and defence contractors located there. Birmingham is a centre of banking and finance in the mid-South, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa are hubs of automobile manufacturing, logistics, and technology, and Mobile is consistently ranked among the nation’s top 10 ports of entry.

The skyline of Birmingham, Alabama, a modern city, had begun to take shape by 1915

## Shadow of Civil Rights

While Alabama recovered and prospered during the century following the Civil War, not every citizen shared equally in that prosperity. The oppression and racial discrimination that followed the conflict persisted in the form of Jim Crow laws, segregation in schools and public places, and other manifestation of inequality, both overt and covert.

By the 1960s, the Civil Rights movement had found its collective voice in the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, and Alabama became a focal point of societal upheaval and eventual change.

Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus and was arrested in 1955

> “Alabama became a focal point of societal upheaval and eventual change”

Rocketdyne J-2 engines on S-II of Saturn V Moon Rocket at the Space and Rocket Center

The WW II-era battleship USS Alabama is the centrepiece of a memorial park in Mobile

Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus and was arrested on 1 December 1955, sparking a boycott of the city's transit system. In the spring of 1963, a sit-in occurred at Woolworth's lunch counter in Birmingham as tensions increased. In May of that year, Birmingham Police Commissioner Theophilus 'Bull' Connor loosed dogs on demonstrators in the city streets. Images of such brutality were flashed across the nation in evening news broadcasts. White supremacists linked to the Ku Klux Klan infamously planted a bomb inside the 16th Street Baptist Church, its detonation killing four young girls on 15 September 1963.

Governor George Wallace became a national lightning rod in opposition to the Civil Rights movement. He served as governor from 1963 to 1968 and proclaimed, "Segregation now! Segregation tomorrow! Segregation forever!" However, Wallace and his cohorts were unable to quell the inevitable change that was to come.

In June 1963, President John F. Kennedy federalized the Alabama National Guard and enforced a desegregation order allowing Blacks to attend the University of Alabama.

## Cultural Alabama

Alabama has long nurtured a vibrant cultural heritage. College football is among the state's most popular spectator events, and the Alabama Crimson Tide and Auburn University's Tigers maintain a vigorous rivalry. Legendary Alabama football coach Paul 'Bear' Bryant brought the Crimson Tide to national prominence during a tenure stretching from 1958 to 1982.

Country music star Hank Williams, Harper Lee, acclaimed author of the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Helen Keller, author, advocate for the disabled, and subject of the acclaimed play and film *The Miracle Worker*, hail from Alabama. Randy Owen and the musical group Alabama received two Grammy Awards and 13 nominations during the 1990s-2000s. And rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd created an unofficial state anthem with 'Sweet Home Alabama' in 1974.

Alabama is home to many points of interest, including the Space and Rocket Center, Gulf coast beach resorts, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, and the USS Alabama Memorial Park, where the WWII-era battleship and other attractions are located at Mobile Bay. ★

## BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

**Exploring the history of the Civil Rights movement, this museum provides notable insights**

Founded in November 1992 in Birmingham, Alabama, and a focal point of the change that swept the US during a racially-charged period of the nation's history, the Civil Rights Institute welcomes thousands of visitors each year and touches many more through travelling exhibitions and award-winning programmes.

The Civil Rights Institute captures the spirit of the movement, the lives and times of its leaders and common people, and the ongoing effort to make equality real and vibrant. Exhibitions include the actual jail cell from which Dr. Martin Luther King penned the iconic 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' on 16 April 1963, and documents, artefacts, memorabilia, film, and photos that commemorate significant moments in the struggle for equality.

Part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, the Civil Rights Institute is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution and serves as a cultural and educational research facility to promote understanding and comprehension of the city's struggle in civil rights development.

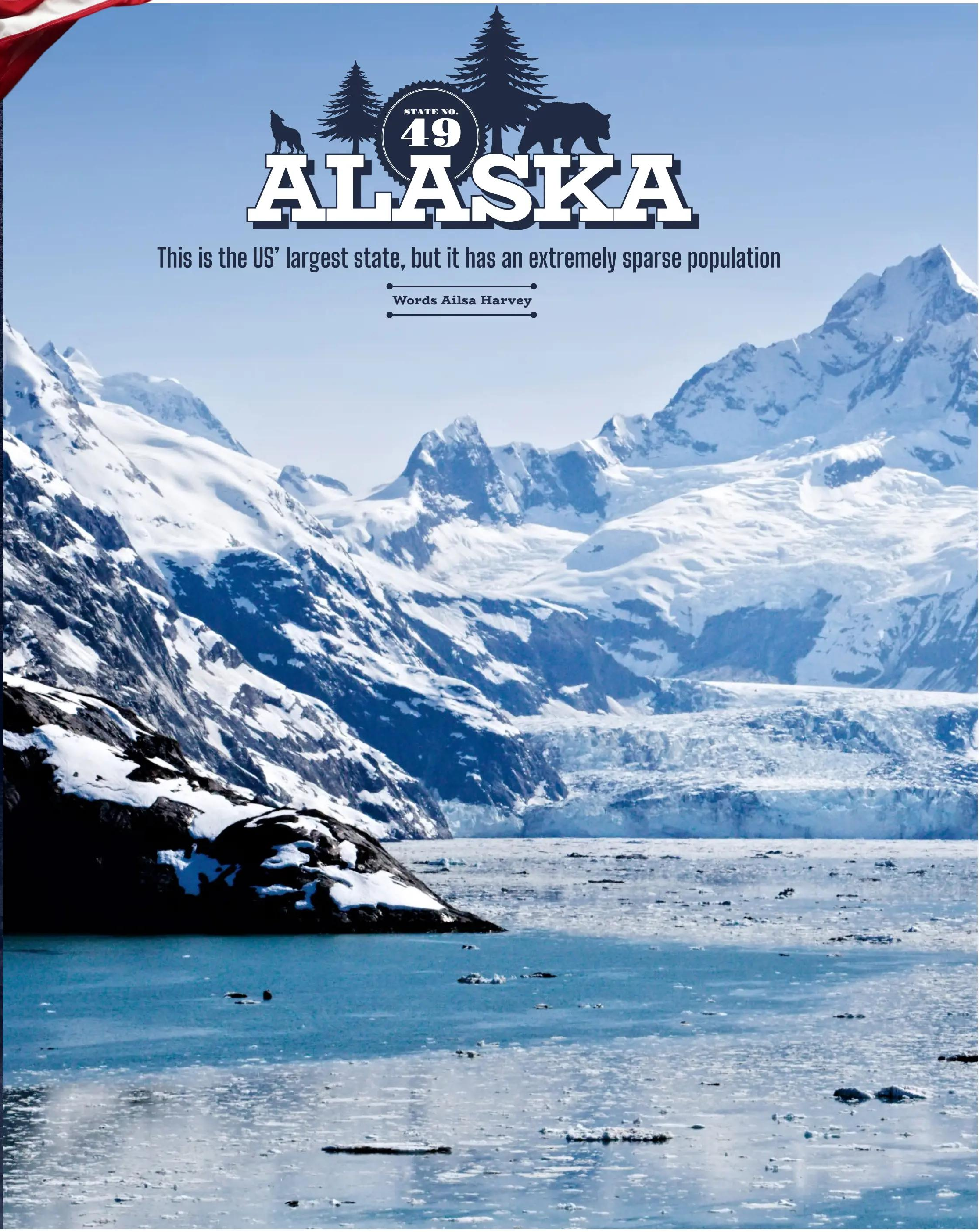
Images: Alamy; Getty

STATE NO. 49

# ALASKA

This is the US' largest state, but it has an extremely sparse population

Words Ailsa Harvey



## BIO

**Nickname:** The Last Frontier

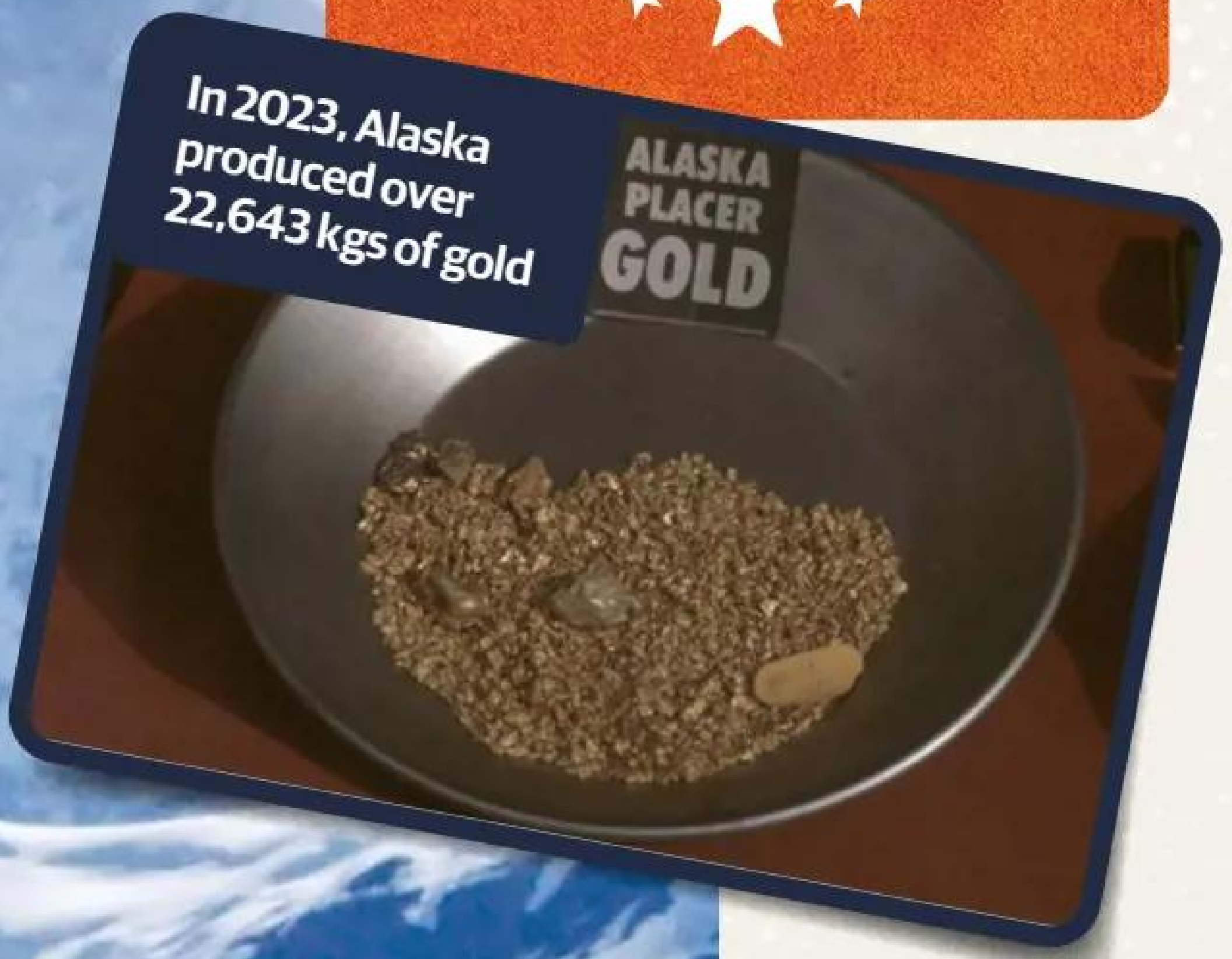
**Anthem:** 'Alaska's Flag'

**Admitted to the Union:** 3 January 1959

**Capital:** Juneau

**Population:** 741,147

**Sports franchises:** N/A


In 2023, Alaska produced over 22,643 kgs of gold

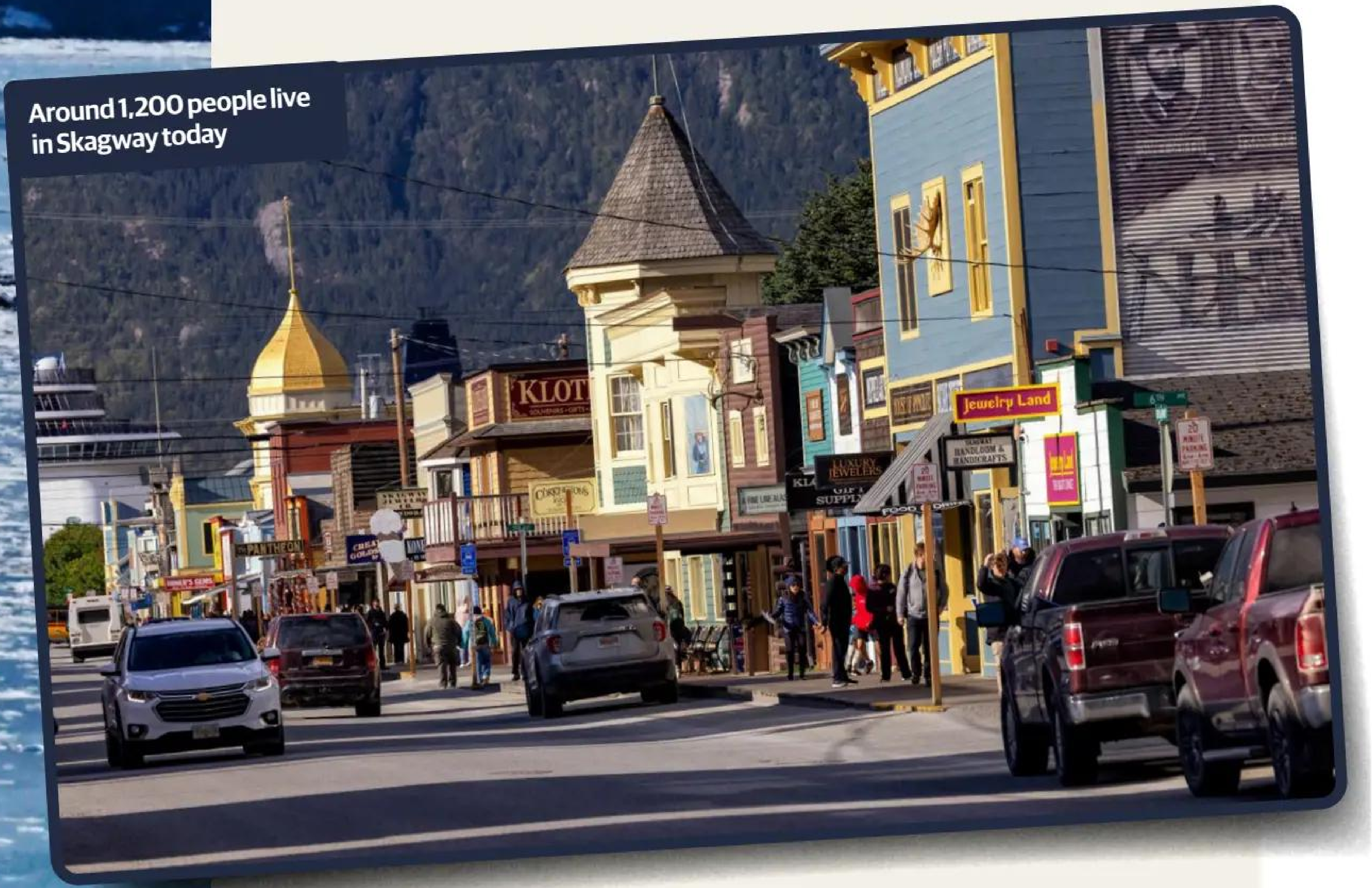
**Alaska cost the US $7.2 million dollars when it purchased it from Russia in 1867**. As well as expanding the US, this put an end to Russia's attempts to claim North American land. This caused some controversy among the US population as, at the time, Alaska was largely unexplored. It was thought of as useless land and was even given the nickname of Seward's Folly after the Secretary of State William Seward, who was responsible for the transaction. However, Alaska soon proved bountiful in natural resources such as gold and oil, making it a valuable US asset.

## The Klondike Gold Rush

In 1880, Joe Juneau found gold in the Silver Bow Basin of Alaska. The capital city of Alaska was later named after this miner, because this event, along with further discoveries across Yukon, Canada, gave thousands of people outside the region an incentive to travel to the area in search of the precious metal. Those who were travelling to Yukon in search of gold often used Alaskan ports to reach their destination By the 1890s, the influx of prospectors to the region increased populations and was known as the Klondike Gold Rush.

New towns were established in Alaska, largely as settlements for prospectors to stay in as a point of near access to Yukon. Skagway and Dyea were two popular Alaskan towns for this role, with around 15,000 miners in Skagway on any given day. For the three years that the gold rush went on for, Alaskan businesses and transportation saw a great increase in activity. When this period came to an end, naturally this directly impacted and newly built towns saw an immediate decline in presence. But, generally speaking, Alaska had gained people's interest and it gradually became more populated. By 1900, it had a population of 63,592, and more than 20,000 of these people were miners living in the coastal city of Nome. Coastal hubs were connected to inland Alaska to

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain


Around 1,200 people live in Skagway today

form efficient transport routes and Alaska was better connected to the rest of the US. The White Pass and the Yukon Route was also completed in 1900 after two years of construction.

## When did Alaska become a state?

Due to Alaska's westerly position on the world map, and consisting of a large area of land between the North Pacific ocean and the rest of the US states, Alaska became useful in defending the US in World War II. In 1940, there were 500 troops in Alaska, but by 1943, this had escalated to 124,000. In addition, it was geographically close to Japan and Russia. As a result, the Territory of Alaska was seen as more of a vital asset to the US, and it was only after the war that it was seriously considered for potential as its own state. Investment in Alaska also increased during the war, meaning that infrastructure was improved. The US spent nearly $2 billion in Alaska to improve travel and modernise airfields and rail networks. By 1950, the civilian population of Alaska had nearly doubled to 128,643.

Congress began the process of admitting Alaska as a state shortly after World War II, but there was limited support. This grew by the 1950s, when the matter was revisited and in 1956, the state constitution was ratified. The Alaska Statehood Act was signed into law by President Eisenhower in 1958, through which Alaska become the 49th US state. E.L. "Bob" Bartlett, who was instrumental in the passing of the act, became one of the two first US senators from Alaska, alongside Ernest Gruening, with William A. Egan acting as the state's first governor.

## Preserving native culture

Before any US settlers arrived in Alaska, there were native groups with diverse cultures and expert skills of how to thrive in such harsh environments and unpredictable weather patterns. However, in the decade prior to statehood, the number of natives had dwindled from approximately half of Alaska's population in the early-1940s to around 19% by 1959.

The Iñupiat and Yup'ik people were two of these groups, who suffered a decline. However, since the 1960s, native groups have reclaimed their ancestral lands and reasserted themselves as a vital part of the state's identity. Many traditional practices, such as fishing, drumming, carving and hunting continue to be taught so that Iñupiat and Yup'ik traditions are passed on through the next Alaskan generations.

Every other year in June, the city of Juneau in Alaska comes alive with a vibrant celebration of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian native people. The event, run by the Sealaska Heritage Institute, only takes place when it is an even-numbered year, and traditional dancing, art, storytelling and singing takes place. This is an important event in sharing Alaskan traditions and heritage. The festival takes place over four days in Southeast Alaska.

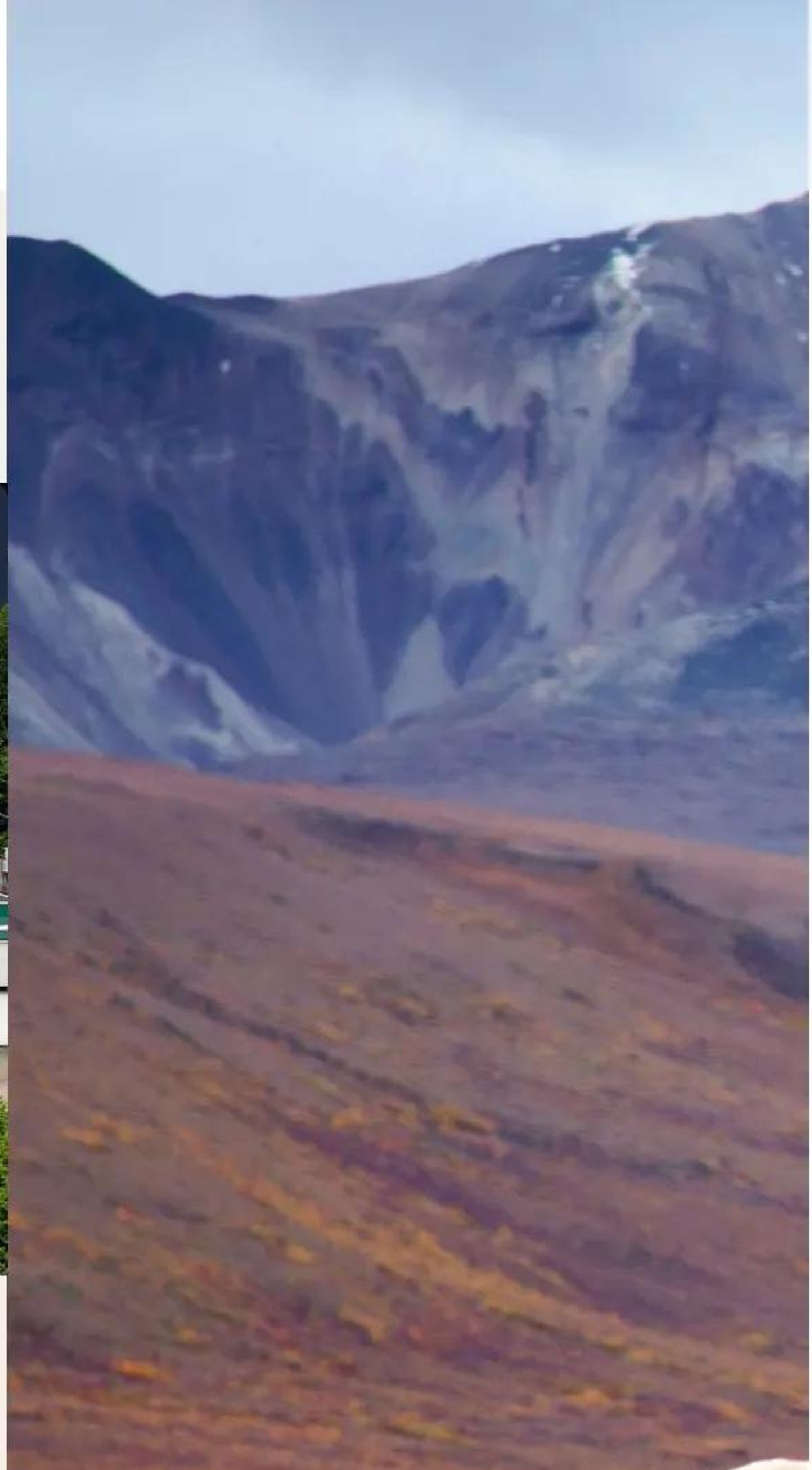
Over 31,000 people live in the capital Juneau

## Alaskan landscapes

The natural landscape of Alaska holds many areas of uninterrupted natural beauty and habitats for wildlife to thrive, thanks to the low population to area ratio. Across the state, environments range from icy tundra to dense rainforests, and five percent of the landmass is covered in 100,000 glaciers. These are some of the northernmost glaciers in the world, due to the Arctic's climate further north being too dry to maintain them.

Living in Antarctica also means getting used to frequent earthquakes. These occur because the state's land is positioned on a complex tectonic plate boundary. There are 50-100 earthquakes in Alaska during just one day, and over 220,000 earthquakes were documented over the course of five years by the Alaska Earthquake Center.

The unique geography and livelihood of its small population makes this great state stand out from the rest. Its rugged coastline, hidden value within its rocks and infrastructure driven by war has shaped the state to one of transformation and surprise, with resilient and deep-rooted cultures running through its core. ★



Mendenhall glacier, near Alaska's capital, is 22 km (13.6 miles) long

Music is played at the opening ceremony of the 2004 Juneau Celebration festival

“The unique geography and livelihood of its small population makes this great state stand out from the rest”

## DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

### Explore the vast wilderness of America's Last Frontier

The wild landscape that makes up Denali National Park and Preserve covers a space of 6 million acres and is home to North America's tallest peak, Mount McKinley. The park is named in honour of this steep ascent, as Denali is based on the Koyukon word for 'tall'. Koyukon is the language of the indigenous Koyukon Athabaskans who live in the area. Mount McKinley is 6,190 m (20,310 ft) above sea level and the third most isolated mountain on Earth. Due to Alaska's winter temperature being between 0°F / -18°C and -30°F / -35°C, the mighty mountain's high altitude keeps it snow-topped year-round.

The remaining land of the national park is protected to conserve the wildlife and cut down on hunting practices. Some of the top animals to spot roaming the space include moose, black and grizzly bears, caribou, Dall sheep and wolves. These are known as Alaska's Big Five. In total, the park hosts 39 mammal species, 169 bird species and one amphibian species. When taking a trip to the Denali National Park and Prederve, it is worth noting that there is only one road at the location, with just one entrance. It runs from east to west, but taking this undulating journey provides serene sights.

Alaska's tallest mountain was first named on a map in 1839 and was then called Tenada

Images: Alamy

STATE NO.
48

# ARIZONA

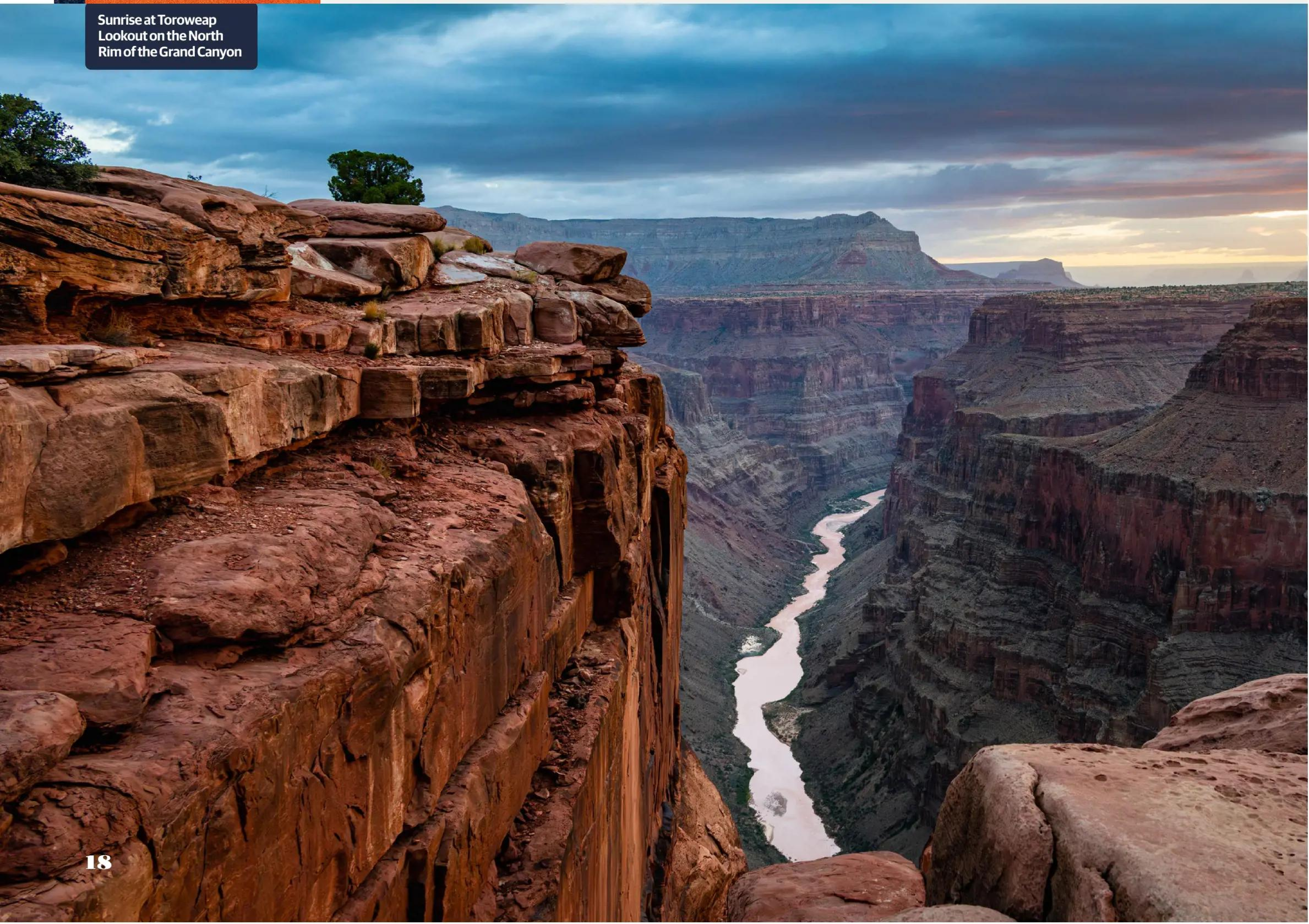
## Like its iconic landscape, Arizona's road to statehood wound a path through highs and lows

Words Ailsa Harvey

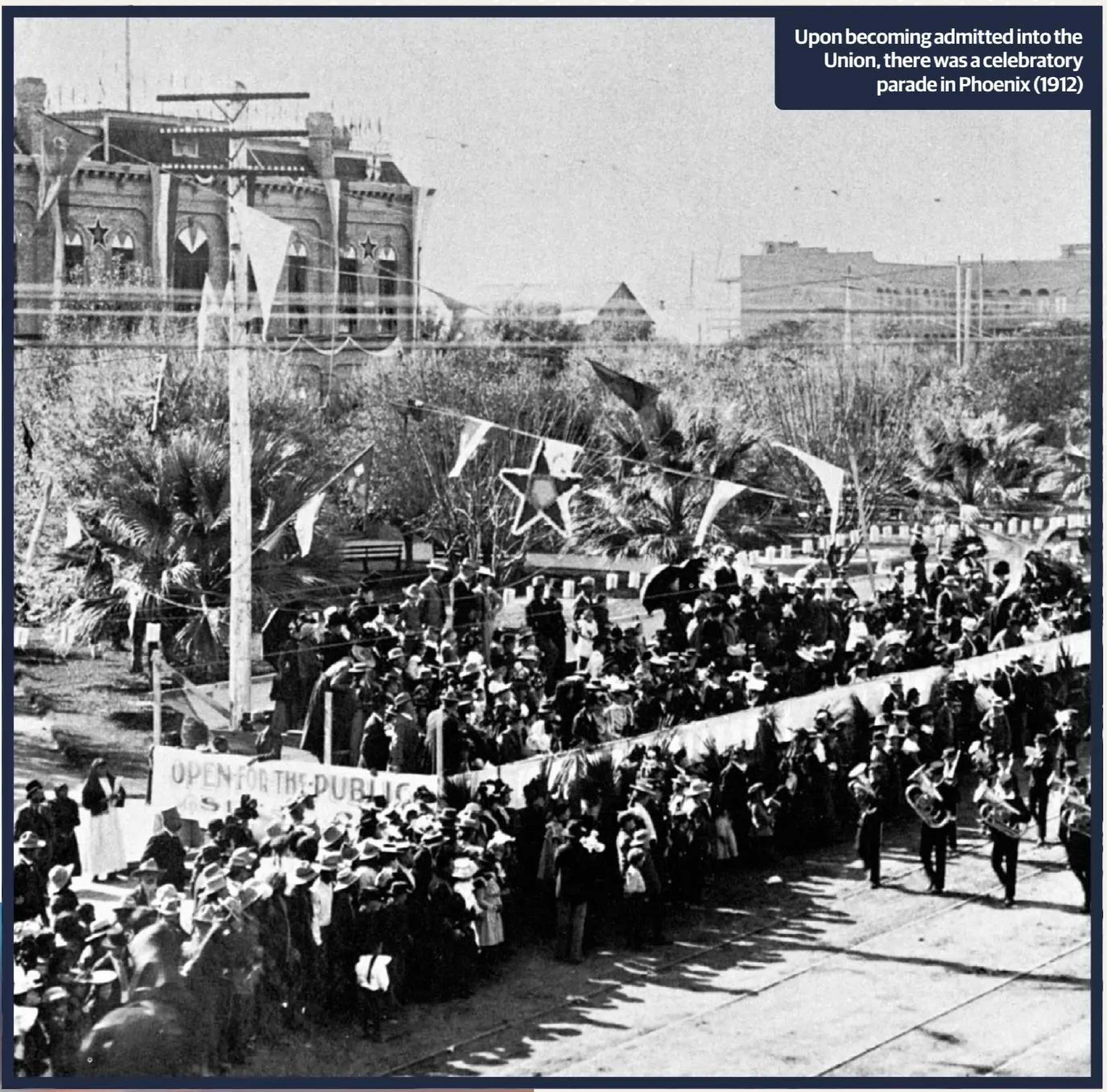
### BIO

**Nickname:**
The Grand Canyon State
**Anthem:** 'Arizona March Song'
**Admitted to the Union:**
14 February 1912
**Capital:** Phoenix
**Population:** 7,691,740
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Arizona Cardinals
NBA: Phoenix Suns
MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks

**The land that makes up the state of Arizona was ceded to the US in 1848 after the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.** Due to its desert landscape being smothered in intense heat and dry conditions, development in the area was slow. It wasn't until minerals such as copper were discovered and mined that train tracks and other infrastructure were built and settlement in the area increased. The abundance of copper in Arizona makes it a main source for US copper production and has gained the state an additional nickname of 'The Copper State'. In order for a transcontinental railway to connect the southern states of the US, President Franklin Pierce sent his Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, and his friend – and ex-military officer – James Gadsden to Mexico to make a deal with the country. The result was that the US agreed to pay Mexico $10 million for the land needed. This was the Gadsden Purchase, which was agreed in 1854 and resulted in some of the 29,670 square miles of Mexico that was given to the US becoming part of Arizona. This presence of US settlers in this land, which was land of the Native American Apache tribe, and the competition for resources there, soon caused ongoing tension and conflict.



Sunrise at Toroweap Lookout on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon

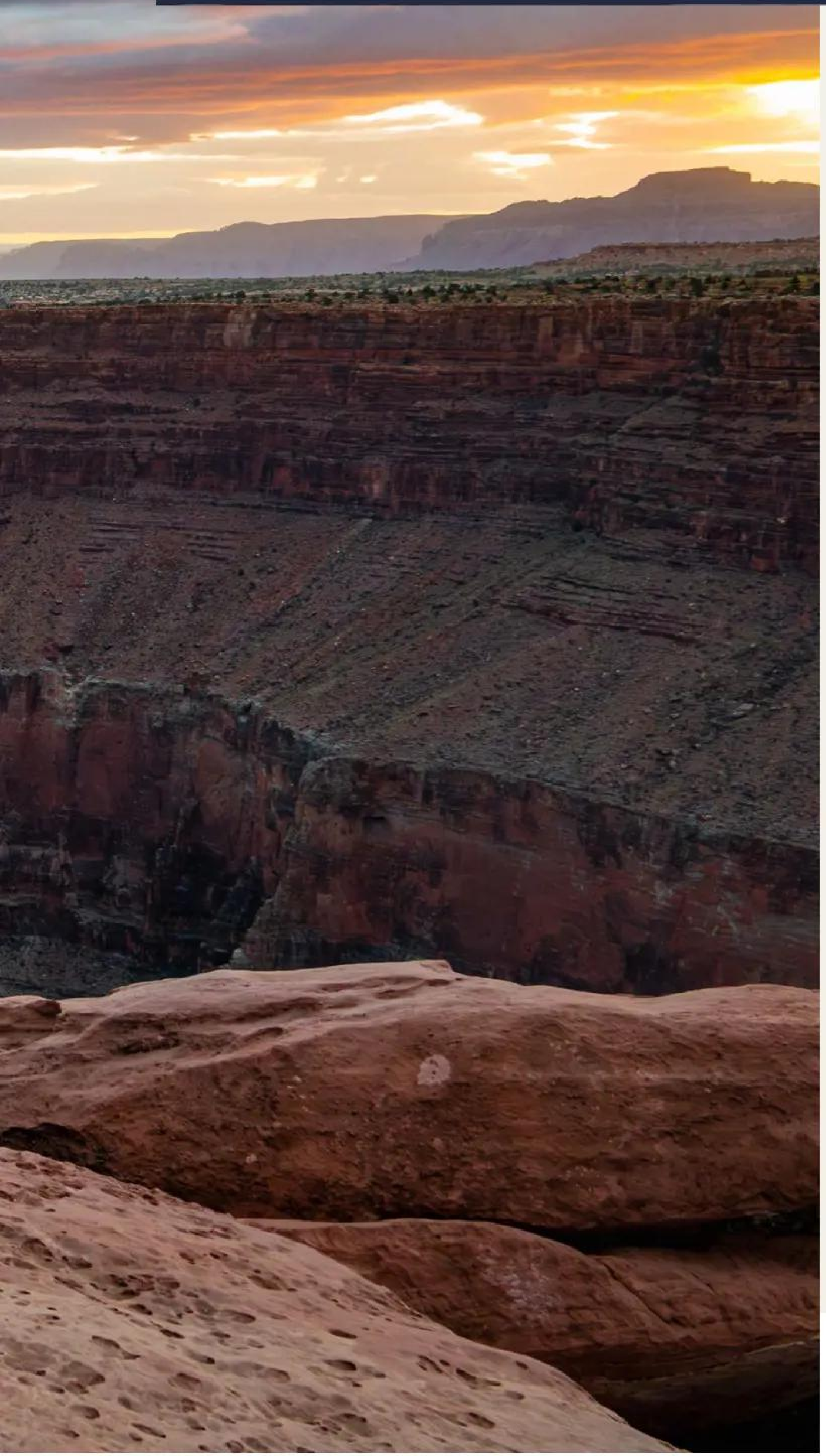


Upon becoming admitted into the Union, there was a celebratory parade in Phoenix (1912)

## ARIZONA'S NATURAL WONDER

**The Grand Canyon was carved by the Colorado River over millions of years**

Geologically, Arizona's land has been subjected to drastic shifts in its tectonic plates, lifting its rocks in the northwest of the state between 70 and 30 million years ago. This created a high, flat area of land called the Colorado Plateau. Over time, the region's Colorado River carved a gorge into this land, gradually eroding away the rock to form today's colossal canyon, reaching 1,857 metres (6,093 feet) deep at its deepest point. The Grand Canyon is 446 kilometres (277 miles) long and 29 kilometres (18 miles) wide. After Arizona became a US state, President Woodrow Wilson made the Grand Canyon a national park in 1919. This helps the canyon and surrounding area maintain its natural beauty and rich biodiversity, as an attraction to over six million annual visitors.



## Reaching statehood

Between the 1800s and 1900s, the new Southern Pacific Railroad greatly benefitted Arizona's economy and enabled mass settlement. One of the larger-scale constructions that was put in place in 1931 was the Hoover Dam, which is located on the border between Nevada and Arizona, across the Colorado River. The dam serves as a reliable water supply in Arizona's arid environment and its presence soon meant that large areas of surrounding farmland could be irrigated for growing food.

By the early 1900s, Arizona was growing in independence as a separate territory. The residents of the region created a state constitution in order to become its own state, and this took place at the newly formed capital of Phoenix. However, congress refused to approve the constitution and instead attempted to combine Arizona and New Mexico as a single state. This proposal was rejected by Arizonians, who had developed their own unique culture and politics. They persisted in their plea to become their own state and, eventually, in 1910 this was approved. Arizona became the 48th US state.

This decision and persistence has shaped Arizonian identity today. Arizona is a larger state with busier cities, when compared to New Mexico's calmer pace of life. Politically, Arizona is a mostly Republican state and New Mexico more Democratic. With its border adjacent to Mexico, Arizona has Hispanic influence in its culture and around 30 percent of Arizona residents have Hispanic ancestry. Arizona is also home to 22 recognised tribes, with diverse cultures, languages and traditions. ★

> "By the early 1900s, Arizona was growing in independence as a separate territory"

The Hoover Dam is 221 metres (726 feet) tall

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock; Source: Wikiedia Commons / Public Domain

Petit Jean State Park is nestled in the valley of the Arkansas River

### STATE NO. 25

# ARKANSAS

## Arkansas stands as a modern economic centre and home to the service sector in the mid-South

Words Michael E. Haskew

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Natural State, Land of Opportunity

**Anthem:** 'Oh, Arkansas'

**Admitted to the Union:** 15 June 1836

**Capital:** Little Rock

**Population:** 3,080,000

**Sports franchises:** N/A

**The 25th state admitted to the Union, Arkansas is the only US state with a publicly accessible diamond mine, located at Crater of Diamonds State Park, in the southwest.** The precious gem was first discovered in Arkansas in 1906 by farmer John Huddleston, and since then more than 35,000 stones have been found.

However, Arkansas also gleams in other respects. Its natural beauty is enhanced by many lakes and waterways as well as the scenic Ozark and Ouachita mountain ranges. The state's original dependence on agriculture has transformed into an economy that centres on the service sector. Farming has largely become the realm of the industrial conglomerate, but the state is well known for the founding of the behemoth Wal-Mart retail enterprise, the brainchild of entrepreneur Sam Walton, who opened his first store in Rogers, Arkansas, in July 1962. Today, Wal-Mart encompasses nearly 11,000 stores in 19 countries, employs 2.1 million people worldwide, and grosses nearly $700 billion in annual revenue.

The territory encompassed by modern Arkansas was part of the vast Louisiana Purchase concluded by President Thomas Jefferson from Napoleonic France in 1803. Arkansas became a US territory in 1819, and National Republican politician Benjamin Desha became a champion of statehood in 1831 through *The Arkansas Advocate* newspaper. The Sevier, Conway, Rector, and Johnson families controlled the political scene during the early days of Arkansas statehood, and James Sevier Conway served as its first governor.

## CHRIST OF THE OZARKS

**Arms outstretched, a massive statue of Christ stands in the Arkansas mountains**

Completed in 1966, Christ of the Ozarks stands 20m (67 ft) high, the equivalent of seven stories, in the picturesque Victorian village of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The massive statue, its arms outstretched, is situated atop Magnetic Mountain in an expansive park where the Great Passion Play is also performed, and approximately 250,000 visitors come to the attractions in the mountains of northwestern Arkansas each year.

Christ of the Ozarks is the centrepiece of a Christian themed park envisioned by controversial populist and religious activist Gerald K.L. Smith, a follower of Great Depression-era politician Huey P. Long of Louisiana. Smith retired to Eureka Springs and devoted the balance of his life to the development of the park. The immense statue was primarily the work of sculptor Emmet Sullivan, who participated in the creation of the famous Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Images ; Wiki Commons / Public Domain

Arkansas seceded from the Union on 6 May 1861, the ninth state to do so, and supplied troops and resources to the Confederate armies during the Civil War. Following Reconstruction and a revitalization of the Arkansas economy, the state was involved in the burgeoning emancipation of Blacks from slavery and the birth of the Civil Rights movement. A watershed event in the movement occurred in Arkansas in September 1957, when President Dwight Eisenhower ordered Federal troops to the capital city of Little Rock, opposing segregationist Governor Orville Faubus, who defied a Supreme Court ruling to integrate schools across the country. Little Rock Central High School subsequently admitted the 'Little Rock Nine.'

Following World War II, political and civic leaders across Arkansas spearheaded an effort to attract economic development, fostering growth and investment and giving rise to the nickname 'Land of Opportunity.' Little Rock exemplifies the shift from an agrarian economy with its diversified base, including manufacturing, healthcare, and aerospace with a recent investment by French aircraft manufacturer Dassault Falcon Jet of $100 million in an expansion of its presence there.

Famous Arkansans include William Jefferson Clinton, 34th President of the United States, Mike Huckabee, former governor and current US Ambassador to Israel, country music icons Johnny Cash and Glen Campbell, General Douglas MacArthur, actors Billy Bob Thornton and Mary Steenburgen, author John Grisham, and many others. ★

Arkansan William Jefferson Clinton served as 34th President of the United States from 1993 to 2001

Images ; Wiki Commons / Public Domain

> “Arkansas seceded from the Union on 6 May 1861”

Little Rock, capital city of Arkansas, is a centre of trade and commerce in the American mid-South

Majestic autumn unfolds in the Ozark Mountains near the town of Mulberry, Arkansas

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

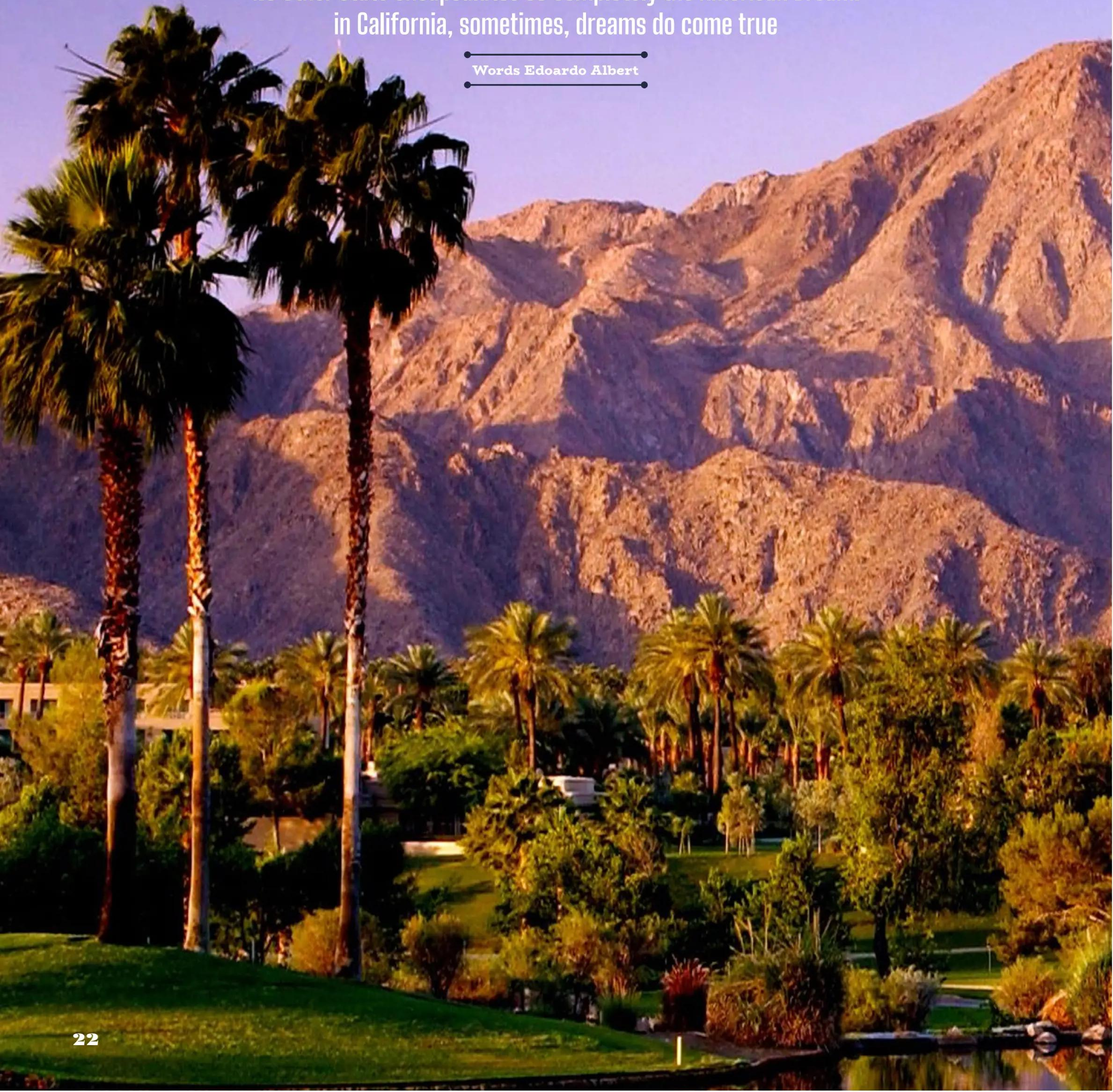
STATE NO.

31

# CALIFORNIA

No other state encapsulates so completely the American Dream: in California, sometimes, dreams do come true

Words Edoardo Albert



**Only New York City comes close to matching California's embodiment of the American Dream.** But the New York of emigrant aspiration is a singular sprawling metropolis; while in California, the American Dream is manifested in an entire state with several star-spangled cities.

It's appropriate that the Golden State's ascent to statehood began with gold. On 24 January 1848, James W. Marshall found gold in Coloma, California. At that time, the United States and Mexico were still at war for control of what would become California, as well as many of the other states of the South West. But the war ended on 2 February, just nine days after Marshall found gold, with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Under the terms of the treaty, Mexico ceded California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, most of Colorado, and all claims on Texas to the United States.

The news of the treaty reached the cities and towns of the eastern United States at the same time as sensational stories of gold finds in the new territory started hitting the press. In response, men started travelling

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Golden State

**Anthem:** 'I Love You, California'

**Admitted to the Union:** 9 September 1850

**Capital:** Sacramento

**Population:** 39,431,263

**Sports franchises:**

NFL: LA Rams, LA Chargers, San Francisco 49ers

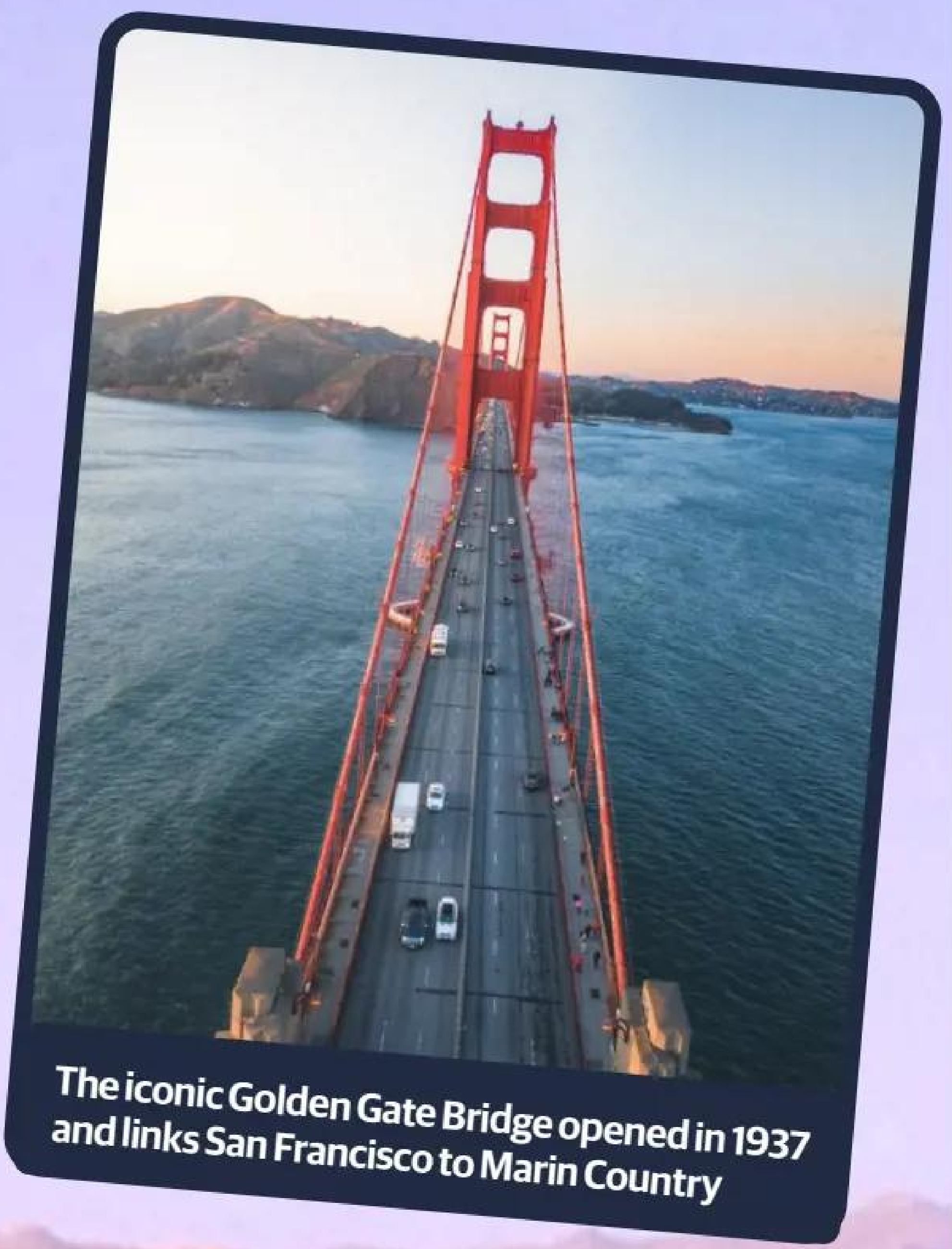
NBA: Golden State Warriors, LA Clippers, LA Lakers, Sacramento Kings

MLB: LA Angels, LA Dodgers, Oakland A's, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants

NHL: Anaheim Ducks, Los Angeles Kings, San Jose Sharks

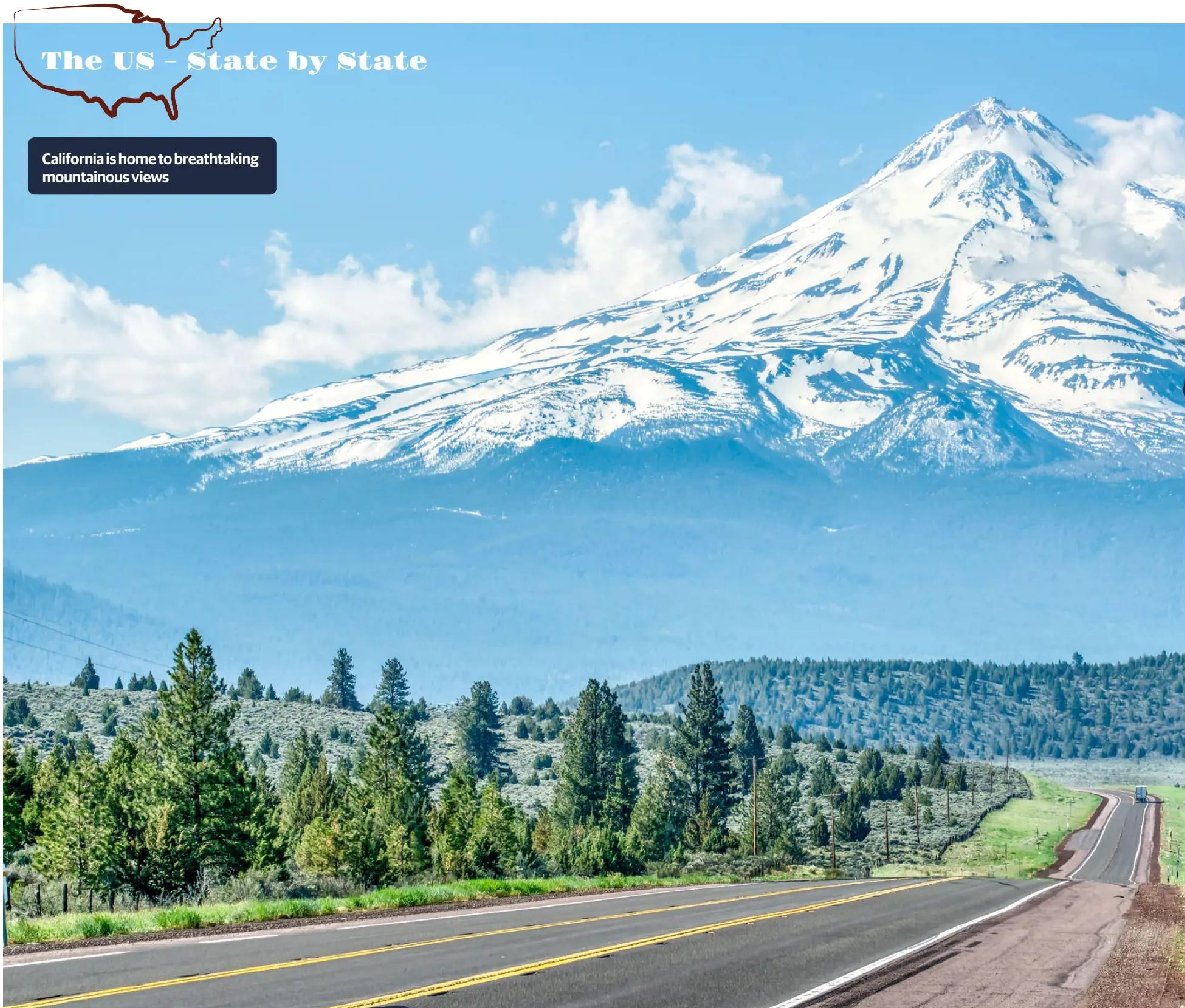
MLS: LA Galaxy, Los Angeles FC, San Jose Earthquakes, San Diego FC

Palm Springs is a resort city located in Riverside, California



The iconic Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937 and links San Francisco to Marin Country

Images on spread: Getty; Adobe Stock



California is home to breathtaking mountainous views

From the arid but beautiful landscape of Joshua Tree to its green north, California is a state of astonishing physical contrasts

west, on wagon trains or by ship, arriving in the tiny settlement of San Francisco. In 1848, the population of San Francisco was about a thousand. In 1850, it had grown to 25,000. The men who heard gold's siren call came to be named the 'Forty-Niners', from which the city's NFL team derives its name.

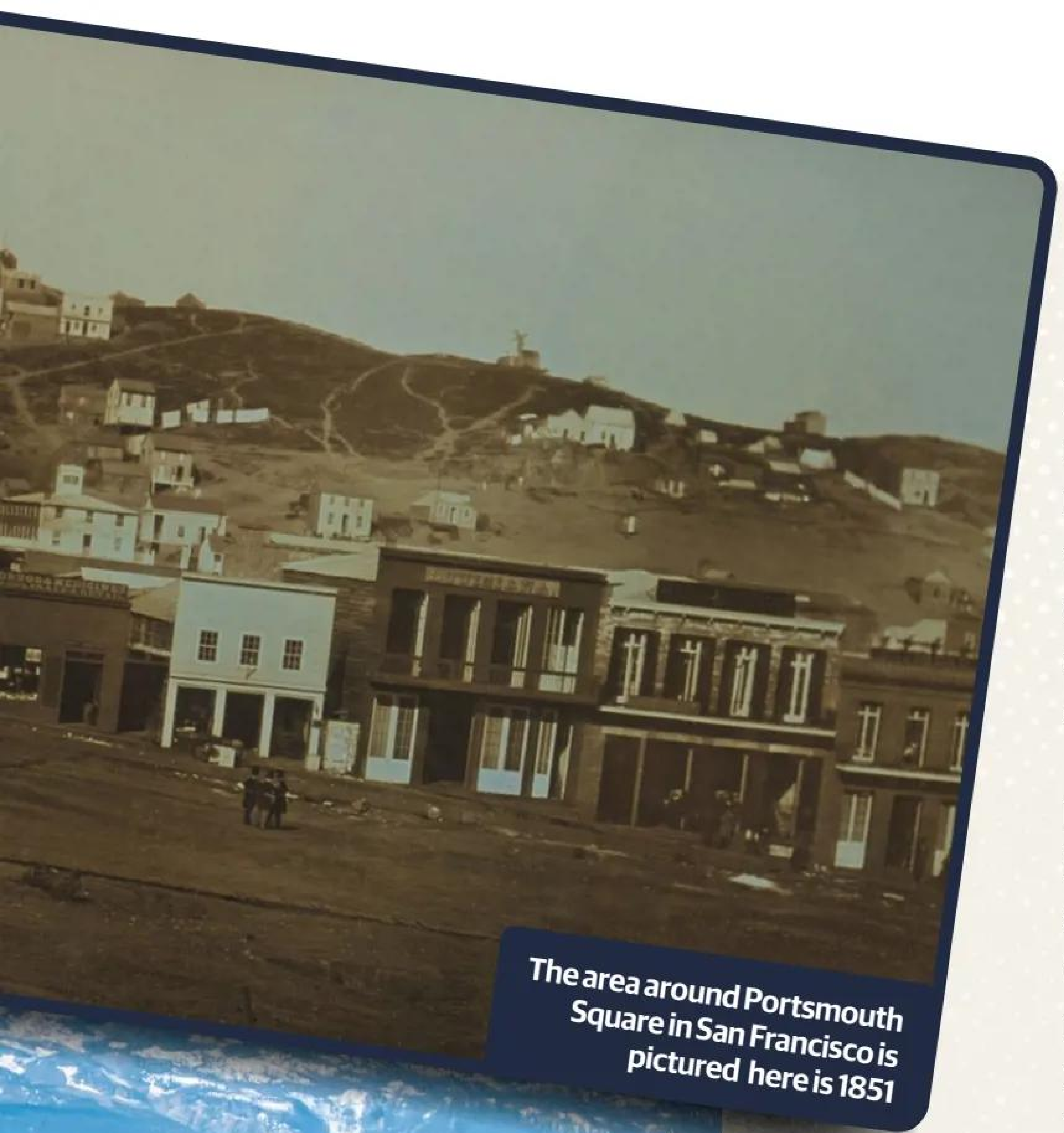
The explosive growth in population meant that California entirely skipped the Territory stage that most aspirant states went through before joining the Union. On 9 September 1850, California became the 31st state to join the Union. It entered as a Free State (that is, one where slavery was illegal), adding to the growing tension between Free and Slave states that culminated in the Civil War. However, being so far west, California escaped the battles and devastation caused by four years of war in the east and then, in 1869, four years after the end of the Civil War, the first Transcontinental Railroad was completed, opening California to further immigration.

They came. In their thousands and their tens of thousands, drawn by the lure of the west, the promise of wealth and the afterglow of gold. California's fertile Central Valley became the centre of its own gold rush, but this was gold drawn from the rich crops that could be grown there. Chinese immigrants, many of whom had worked building the Transcontinental Railroad, were key workers in this new agricultural economy, as well as working in mines and other heavy industries.

> **"Central Valley became the centre of its own gold rush – drawn from the rich crops grown there"**

Los Angeles became the southern twin to San Francisco, with both cities growing on the backs of their ports and heavy industry. The completion of transcontinental highways accelerated immigration to California. People came west for the climate but most of all for the opportunities.

This dream of a new life was encapsulated by the industry that become synonymous with California. Filmmakers started arriving in Hollywood in the early 1900s. They came for the good weather, which allowed shooting year round, and to escape the grip of Thomas Edison's Motion Picture Patents Company. Edison had invented the motion picture camera and



The area around Portsmouth Square in San Francisco is pictured here is 1851

his company vigorously prosecuted anyone who used his cameras to make movies without his licence. However, Edison was based in New Jersey. California was far enough away to make it difficult for Edison's company to pursue patent violators through the courts, particularly as California's legal system was reluctant to outlaw local film makers.

In 1910, D.W. Griffith shot the first movie in Hollywood, *In Old California*, which was 17 minutes long. The Nestor Film Company, founded in 1909, established the first Hollywood studio in 1911, and the film studios that continue to dominate film production to this day were mostly founded in the next fifteen years: Universal, Paramount, Warner Bros., Fox and MGM.

By the 1920s, the major studios had expanded from film production to distributing the films and showing them in movie theatres. This integration of production and distribution allowed the studios to dominate the industry. As a result, Hollywood attracted the best and most ambitious talent to California, while its dominant studio system ensured that for the next forty years Hollywood remained the place to make movies.

During the Golden Age of Hollywood, from the 1930s to the 1950s, the studios produced hundreds of movies each year. Stars were contracted to particular studios who carefully guarded the image of their investments. The most iconic stars of the Hollywood era came to prominence during this time, including Clark Gable, John Wayne, Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, Lauren Bacall, and Judy Garland. Technicolour epics shown in widescreen formats, movies such as *Gone with the Wind* and *The Wizard of Oz*, found a huge audience in America and worldwide.

The end of Hollywood's Golden Age coincided with the invention of the teenager, in which California played a key role. Hollywood itself had seeded the idea of this new stage in development with films such as *Rebel Without a Cause*, while the car culture of southern California had given teenagers unprecedented freedom. California's surf culture, immortalised in the music of the Beach Boys, added the final ingredient to the mixture, creating an image of endless summer, beautiful girls and ultimate freedom. It was a heady mix.

The Golden Age ended with the rise of television but it remains the financial and power centre of film making. However, as a sign of California's ability to reinvent itself, in the 1980s, another industry came to dominate outside perceptions of California, as well as ensuring that the state became as financially powerful as all but a handful of countries.

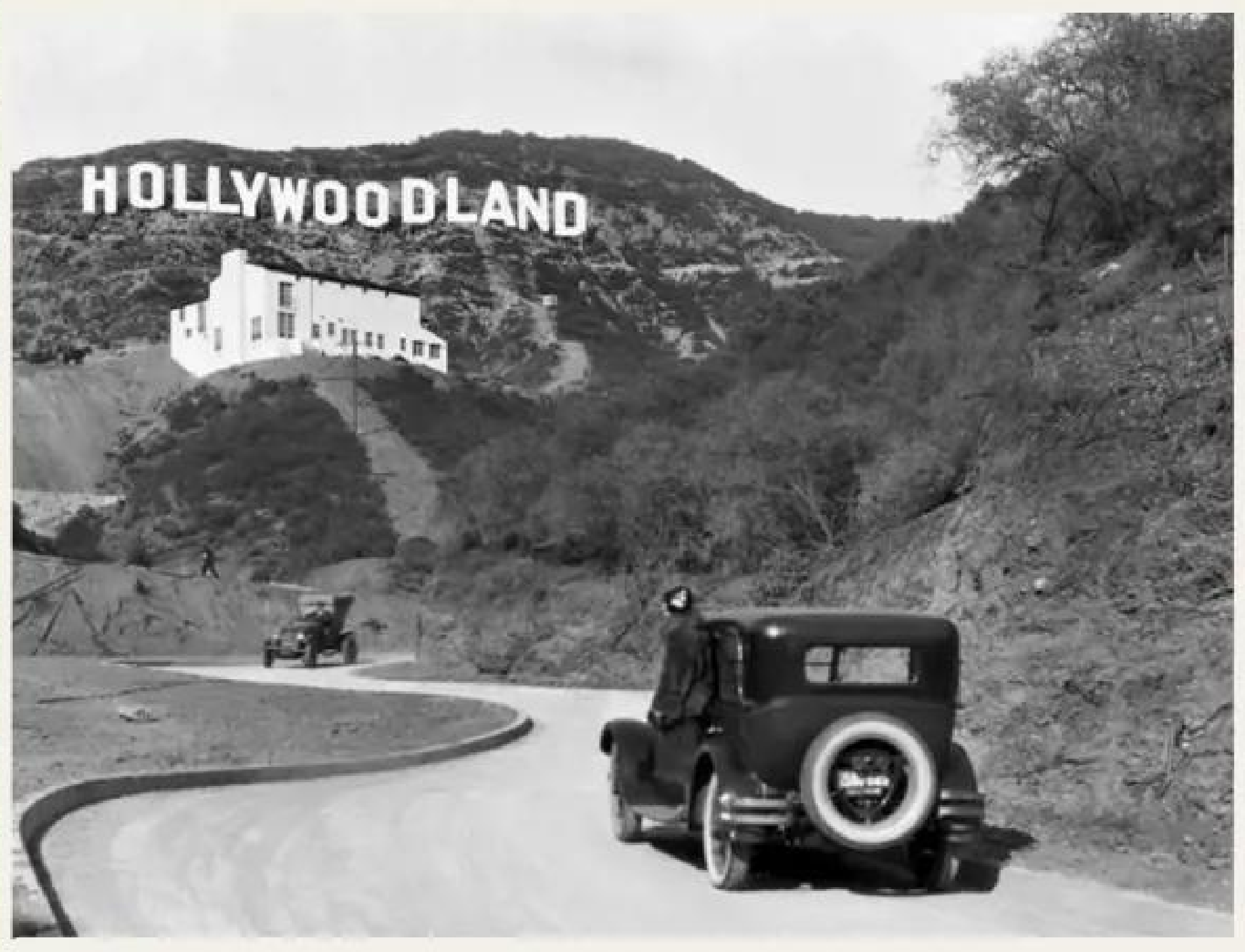
Lauren Bacall, Humphrey Bogart and Marilyn Monroe at Ciro's nightclub in Los Angeles: Golden Age Hollywood was different to anywhere else on earth

## THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN

**It's the most iconic sign in the world but the Hollywood sign has its own story to tell**

In 1923, a sign advertising a new housing development, Hollywoodland, was erected on the side of Mount Lee in the Santa Monica Mountains. The sign cost $21,000 (about $390,000 today) and was only intended to remain for 18 months. However, the sign soon became synonymous with Hollywood itself and stayed in place. In 1932, an actress named Peg Entwistle committed suicide by jumping off the H, adding a layer of tragedy to its growing mythos. It was only in 1949 that the 'land' part of the sign was removed, along with a general restoration of the decaying letters.

By the 1970s, the remaining letters were beginning to crumble. One 'O' was blown down and another broke, leaving the sign reading 'HuLLYWO D'. The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce replaced the old letters with sturdier new one; the new Hollywood sign was unveiled on 11 November 1978. To prevent vandalism, there's no access to the sign itself, but there are plenty of viewpoints from which to see the famous sign.



The original version of the Hollywood sign, erected to advertise a new housing development.

Images: Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

California's Central Valley has also become a major centre of viticulture with its wines now among the best in the world

The high-tech industries of Silicon Valley have ensured California's continuing importance in the 21st century

Silicon Valley had its genesis in military and university research teams and in 1956, physicist William Shockley founded Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory, while a year later some of his employees left to start Fairchild Semiconductor. The silicon chips produced in the area around Palo Alto, Menlo Park and San Jose led to its designation as Silicon Valley, with companies such as Intel and AMD at the forefront of research. In 1976, Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne started Apple and in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with the invention of the internet, companies such as Google, Facebook and Apple with its iPhone set about changing the world. The new AI companies, which threaten as much disruption as their predecessors, are also located in California, putting the state at the centre of the waves of change that are fundamentally altering the world.

All this from a state that also has the most diverse and spectacular physical geography of any state in the Union. From Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the lower 48, to Death Valley, the deepest point in America (and frequently the hottest), from the mist shrouded redwood forests of the coast to the stark desert of Joshua Tree, California is a state of endless contrasts, with a natural backdrop that provides welcome diversion from its high-tech future. The Golden State? It really is. ★

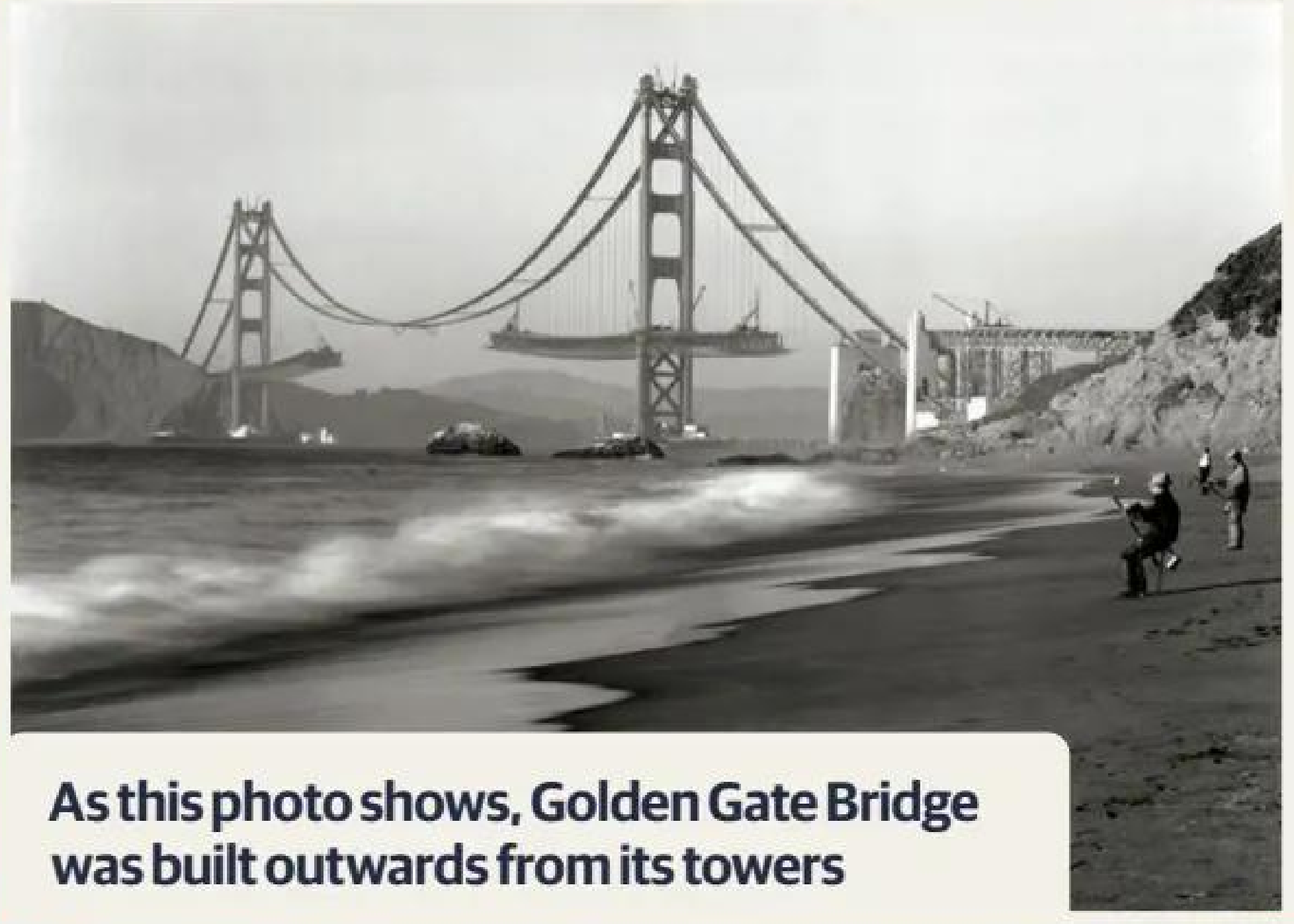
> **"California is a state of endless contrasts"**

## THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

**The first bridge across troubled waters**

It looked impossible. A mile-wide strait, with deep water, swirling fogs and sudden storms separated the city of San Francisco from Marin County. To cross the strait, people relied on ferries, which were frequently suspended because of bad weather. In 1916, city planner James Wilkins proposed a bridge and over the next 18 years a team of engineers and architects refined the design.

The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge began on 5 January 1933. This was during the Great Depression, so the jobs provided by the huge project provided a welcome stimulus to the local economy. The work took four years and many lives were saved by stringing a safety net under the workers; the men who fell into the net formed the Half Way to Hell Club. Despite its unusual focus on safety, 11 men were killed during construction, ten in one accident on 17 February 1937 when a scaffolding broke and cut through the safety net. Golden Gate Bridge was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, rapidly becoming an icon of the Golden State.



As this photo shows, Golden Gate Bridge was built outwards from its towers

California's redwood forests, which stretch north up the coast from San Francisco, provide a green refuge from the city's high tech bustle

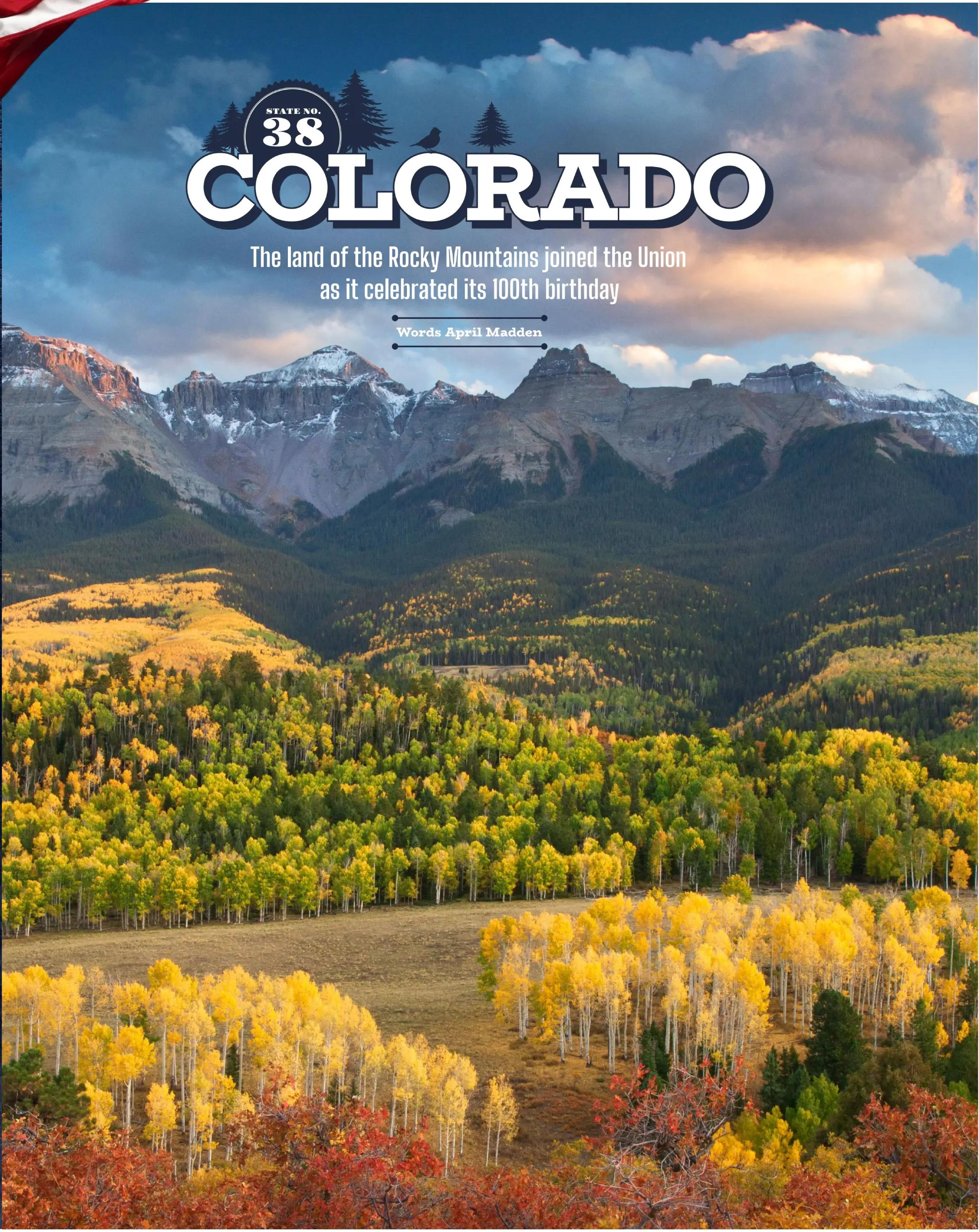
Images: Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

STATE NO. 38

# COLORADO

The land of the Rocky Mountains joined the Union as it celebrated its 100th birthday

**Words April Madden**



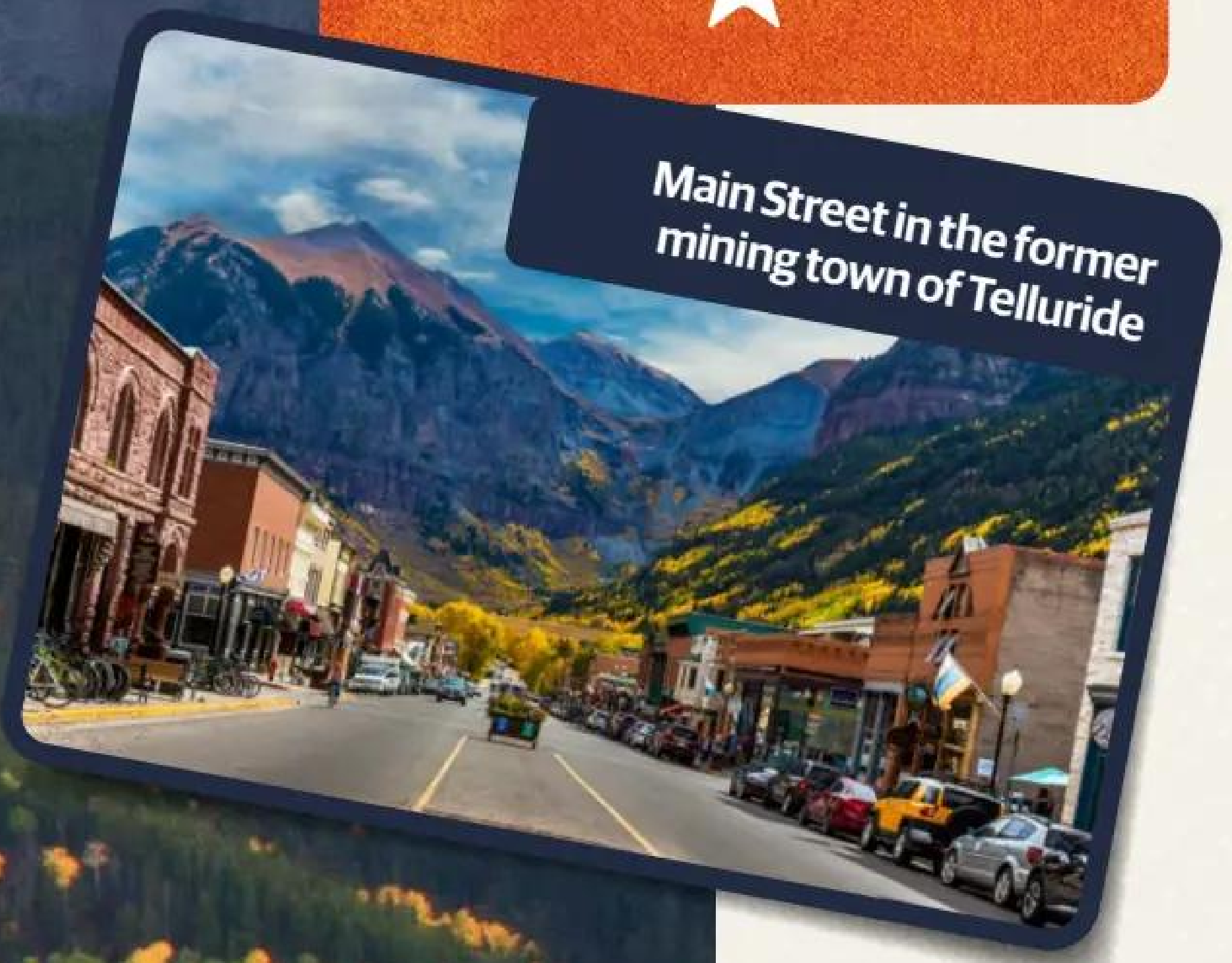
The San Juan Mountains in Colorado

## BIO

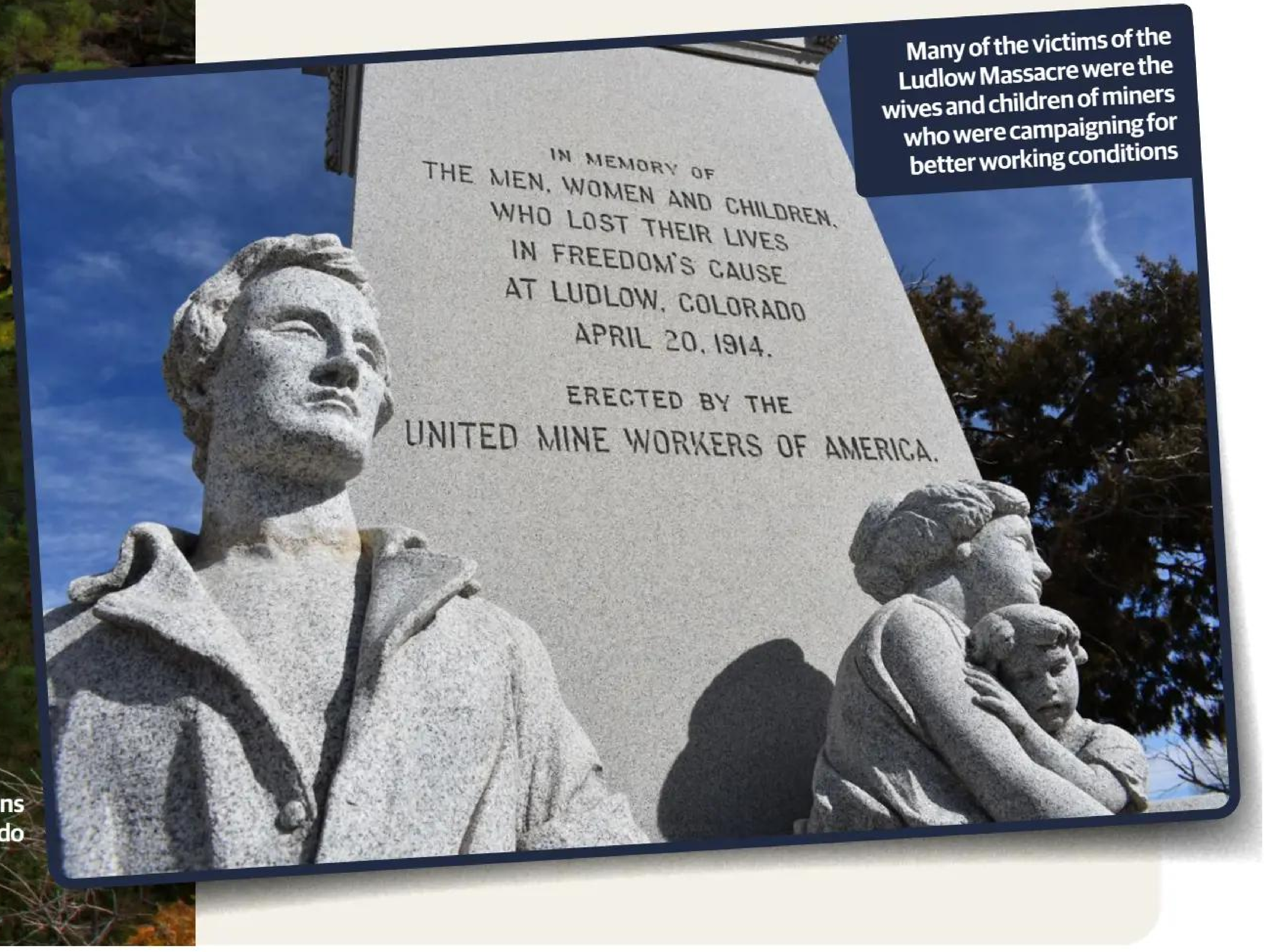
**Nickname:** The Centennial State
**Anthem:** 'Where the Colombines Grow' & 'Rocky Mountain High'
**Admitted to the Union:** 1 August 1876
**Capital:** Denver
**Population:** 5,957,493
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Denver Broncos
NBA: Denver Nuggets
MLB: Colorado Rockies

**Colorado has been a lot of things to a lot of people.** For 13,500 years it was inhabited only by Native Americans, but the Age of Discovery changed all that. First it was Spanish – hence the name, which means 'red land'. Then, while the fledgling US was engaged in the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, it became a bone of contention between Spain, who claimed it, and France, who tried to sell the eastern flank of the Rocky Mountains to the independent Americans as part of the Louisiana deal. A United States Army reconnaissance mission made its way into the disputed territory in 1806, only to fall afoul of a troop of Spanish cavalry, who escorted them south into Mexico proper before unceremoniously expelling them.

For the Spanish, then, Colorado was technically a part of Mexico – but Mexico declared its independence from its colonial overlords in 1810. Colorado became a land of trading posts and small towns. Its scant inhabitants made a hardscrabble living as fur trappers and buffalo hunters, trading the fruits of their kills with each other or with any passing trader they could. Then in 1846 the US and Mexico went to war. Life would change again for Colorado – for a while, some of it wasn't even Colorado at all, but divided out between New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska and Kansas. Some of it was even claimed by the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Their proposed state of Deseret would have included parts of Colorado as well as hefty chunks of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Nevada. Needless to say, the young US, with the separation of church and government enshrined in its constitution, didn't much care for the idea of ceding a vast amount of prime territory to what was intended to be a religiously controlled and at least semi-autonomous area. Despite attempts to set up a state government by the second leader of the church, Brigham Young, the Union declined to recognise Deseret, and instead Brigham Young became the first



Main Street in the former mining town of Telluride



Many of the victims of the Ludlow Massacre were the wives and children of miners who were campaigning for better working conditions

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock

governor of Utah, which is still the Church's home to this day.

In the wake of the Mexican-American War and the ceding of much of Mexico's northern territory to the US, the borders of the Four Corners region remained in flux for some time. Colorado, while being a named region, wasn't technically anywhere – it was a disorganised territory. It was 1851 before Colorado had its first permanent European settlement – San Luis de la Culebra, now San Luis, Costilla County. But Colorado needed to be organised, and fast. The year before San Luis was settled, a wagon train headed for California stopped to rest overnight by a stream flowing into Clear Creek. Gold prospector Lewis Ralston idly dipped his pan into the water, and almost immediately came away with $5 worth of gold. Other passing prospectors would be less lucky, but nonetheless the tale that there was gold to be had in the Rocky Mountains persisted, whispered along the wagon train trails from coast to coast. In 1857 a more significant deposit was found, and the Pike's Peak Gold Rush began in earnest.

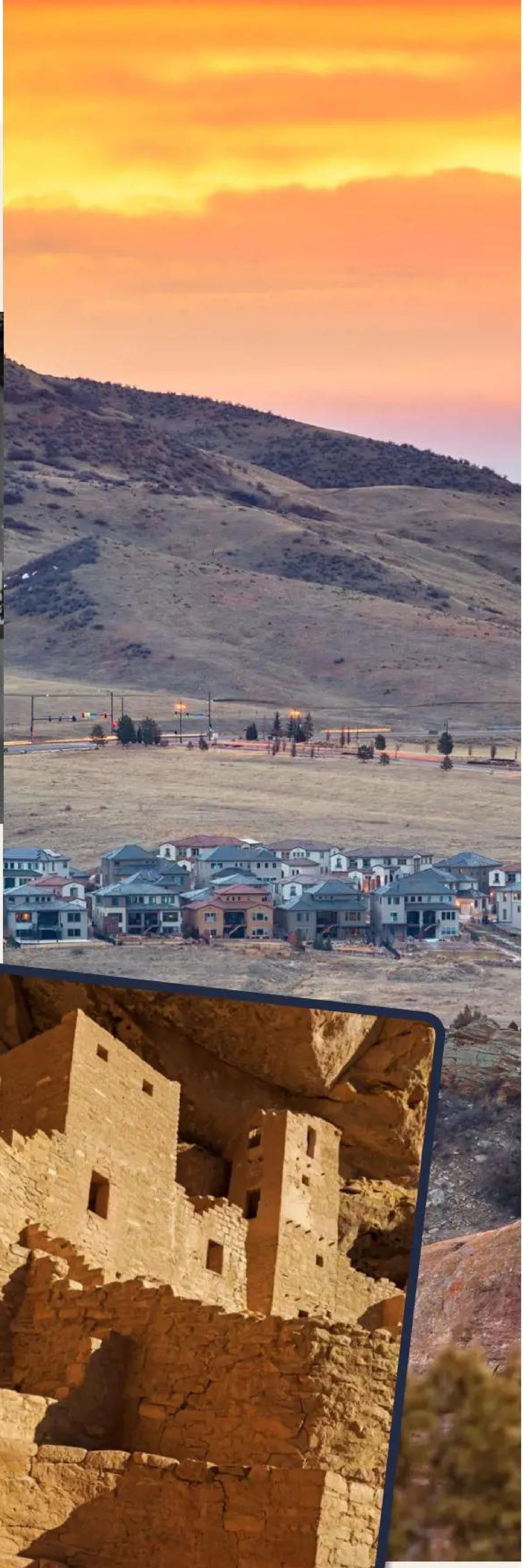
One of the most significant gold rushes in American history, Pike's Peak participants were often known as 'Fifty-Niners', after 1859, the year the rush was at its height. The gold rush would create towns that became important cities – Denver and Boulder – and would drive an influx of people to the still disorganised region. Still a point of some contention between the US and Mexico, it was now imperative that the United States make clear its unambiguous claim to the gold-rich Rockies. Finally, Colorado became a Territory in 1861, and admission to the Union followed in 1876. Becoming the 38th state in the same year that the United States celebrated its 100th anniversary as a nation, Colorado was nicknamed the Centennial State.

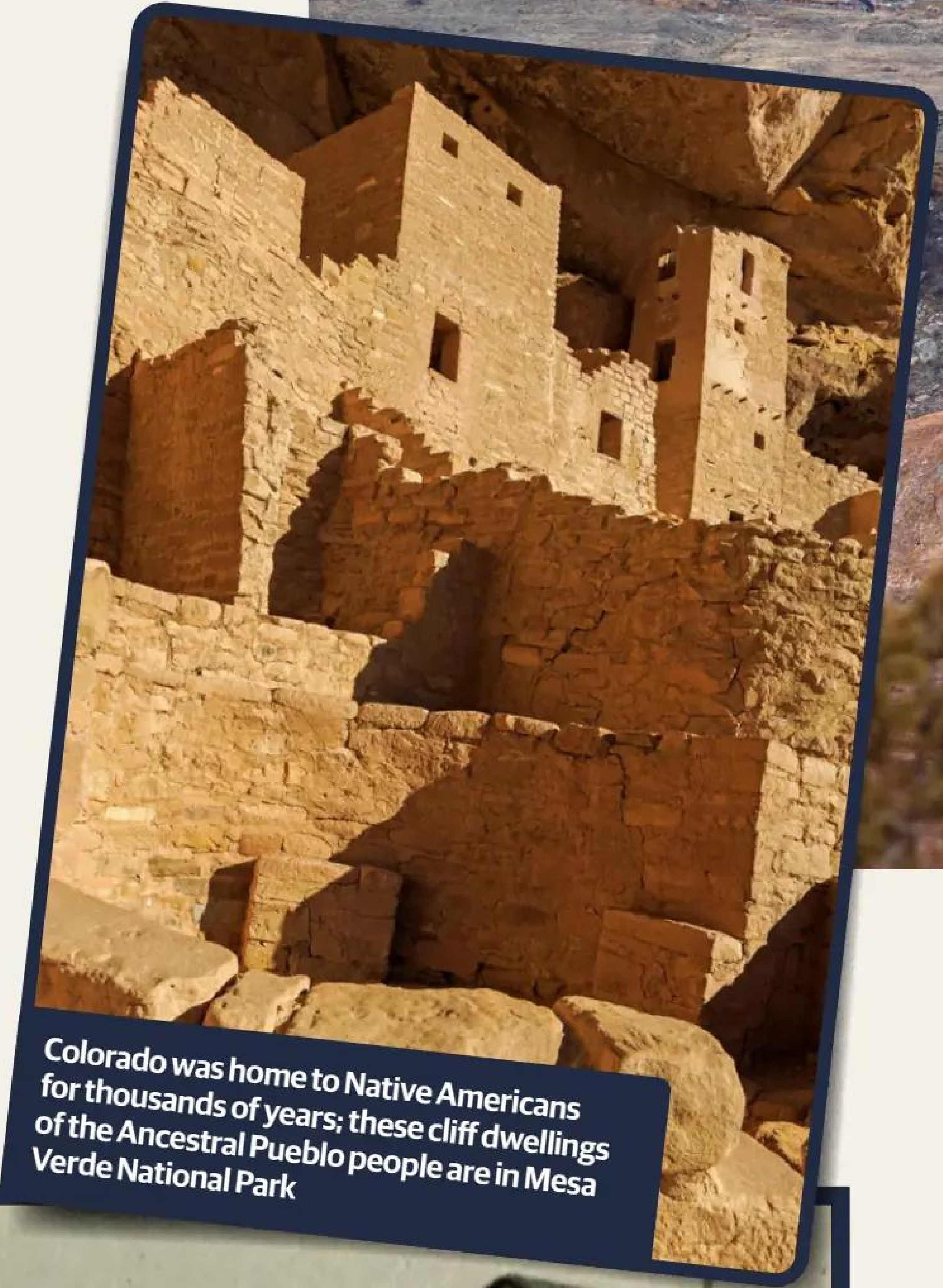
Gold wasn't the only rush to bring cash and people into Colorado. The mines were also rich in silver, but in Denver a more ephemeral product became a major industry. The Carnation Gold Rush – named for the flower industry that grew up around the city – happened almost by accident. An irrigation ditch had been dug in 1872 to bring water to the rapidly expanding Denver. Gardeners soon discovered that Colorado's rich, sun-bathed soil, once properly watered, produced incredible growing conditions for flowers. Popular among perfumers, perfect for the small bouquets blue-collar workers could give to their sweethearts, and forming the colourful, scented backbone of the lavish floral displays of Gilded Age high society, carnations brought an unexpected cash injection to the state, even though growers might struggle with harsh winters and blazing summers. The systems put in place by Colorado growers for standardising production and transporting cut flowers across the States would ultimately revolutionise floriculture worldwide.

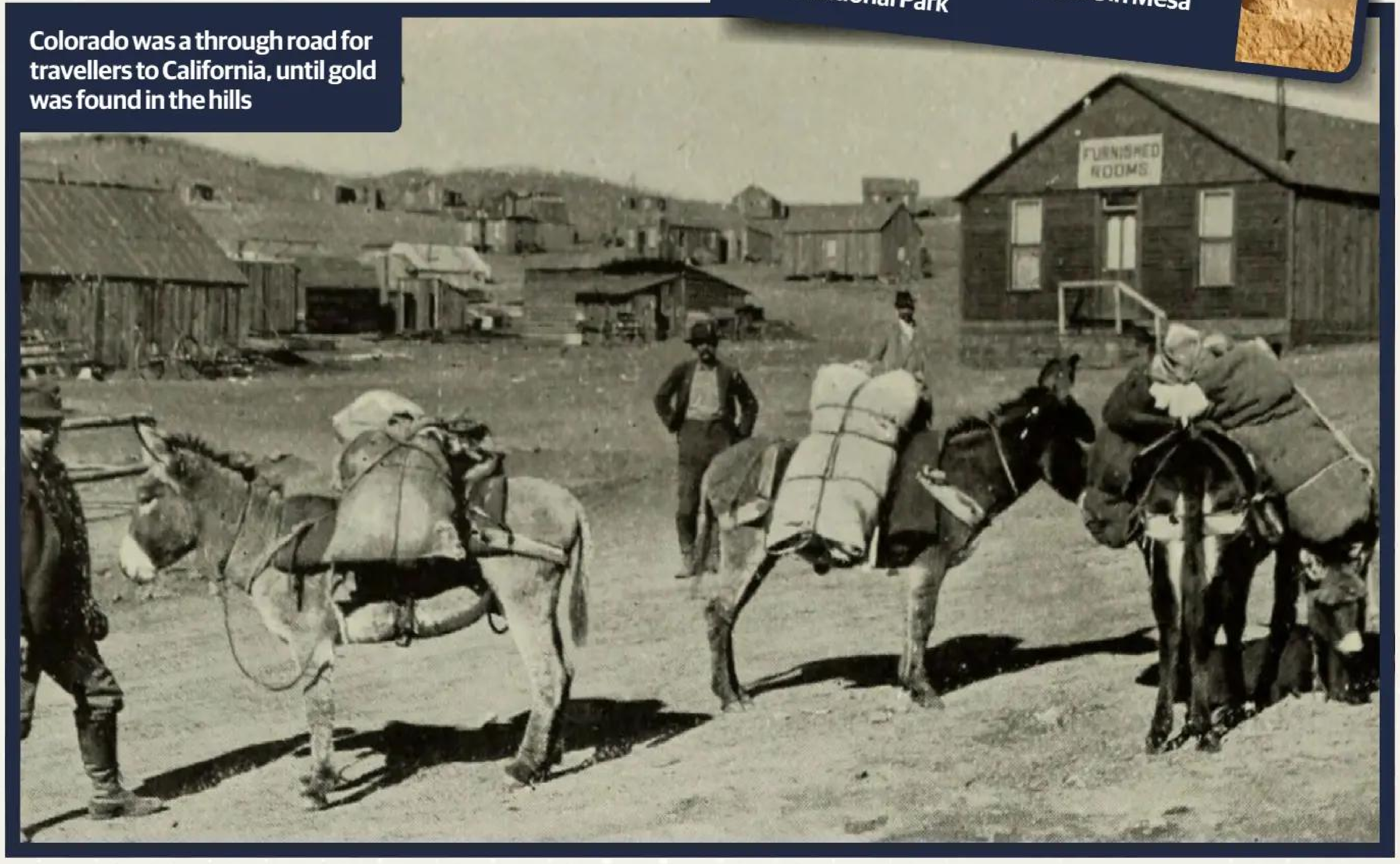
Not everything has been gold and flowers for Colorado, however. Clashes between striking miners' unions, mine owners and the National Guard resulted in injury, strife and death, most famously in the terrible Ludlow Massacre of 1914: most of the approximately 21 dead were the miners' wives and children. The Ku Klux Klan briefly achieved dominance in Colorado politics during the 1920s, although the state's long history of unionised action has also made it one of the hubs of civil rights protest movements, notably among Mexican-Americans. Mass shootings have dogged its schools, stores and nightspots, resulting in gun laws more stringent than the federal norm. Nonetheless, despite setbacks along the way, Colorado consistently ranks as one of the best states in the US for employment, education, and healthcare. ★

> **"Gold wasn't the only rush to bring cash and people into Colorado"**

Colorado became famous for its flowers, particularly carnations, and made great leaps in floriculture techniques and technology




Colorado was home to Native Americans for thousands of years; these cliff dwellings of the Ancestral Pueblo people are in Mesa Verde National Park


Colorado was a through road for travellers to California, until gold was found in the hills

Denver is now a sprawling metropolis, but the dramatic Colorado countryside is never truly far away

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

**This national park boasts some of America's most spectacular scenery**

Long ignored by the European settlers who made their way to Colorado, the area that is now Rocky Mountain National Park was home to Native Americans for thousands of years, and contains archaeological evidence of ancient battles, summer camp grounds, and vision quests, as well as all of the tools of daily life. During the gold rush and the Civil War a few hardy souls made their homes out in the wilderness, but were driven back by the harsh winters. Nonetheless by the 1870s the area was becoming popular with a certain kind of holidaymaker, those who appreciated silence, clean air, and hunting. Enos Mills, who moved to Estes Park as a teenager, wrote many books and articles expounding on the beauty of the region. The park was officially created in 1915, and today boasts everything from meadows to mountain peaks for hikers, campers and tourists to explore.

Explore incredible sights like Chasm Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park

Images: Alamy; Getty

STATE NO.

5

# CONNECTICUT

## How the fifth state to join the Union played a pivotal role in shaping the country and the Constitution

*Words* **Neil Crossley**

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Constitution State
**Anthem:** 'Yankee Doodle'
**Admitted to the Union:** 9 January 1788
**Capital:** Hartford
**Population:** 3,675,069
**Sports franchises:** N/A

★ ★ ★

**Connecticut boasts a rich and illustrious history as one of the thirteen original colonies and it was a key player in the American Revolution.** The Connecticut Colony was founded by English Puritans at Hartford in the late 1630s and established a system of self-government called the 'Fundamental Orders'. This is regarded as the first written constitution of democratic government and it earned Connecticut the nickname of 'the Constitution State'.

Connecticut ratified the US Constitution on 9 January 1788, becoming the fifth state to join the Union. The state played a key role in shaping the Constitution, particularly with the Connecticut Compromise which established a two-house legislative system.

In the years following the American Revolution, Connecticut prospered. Mills and textile factories were built and deepwater ports such as New Haven, New London, Bridgeport and Mystic Seaport flourished from trade and fishing.

The War of 1812 against the British damaged exports but bolstered growth and Connecticut became a leader in industry and innovation. Between 1790 and 1930, Connecticut had more patents issued per capita than any other state.

Inventor Eli Whitney Jr., of New Haven, was at the forefront of the early inventors and engineers. In 1793, Whitney invented the cotton gin, one of the key inventions of the Industrial Revolution.

Industry and innovation would become the bedrock of Connecticut. By the mid-19th century, the

The clock tower of Waterbury Union Station is an iconic landmark in Connecticut

state was an epicentre for railroads. Over 600 miles (967km) of railroad were in operation by 1860.

Inevitably, the American Civil War (1861-65) had a profound impact. Roughly ten percent of the approximately 55,000 Connecticut men who served in the Union Army lost their lives. The state played a crucial manufacturing role in the Union war effort but the war highlighted deep divisions within Connecticut in terms of race and citizenship.

Connecticut was home to academics, such as Timothy Dwight, who in 1701 founded Yale University. It was a Yale English professor, Governor Wilbur Lucius Cross, who emulated Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal politics in the 1930s by creating visionary public services and infrastructure projects.

Connecticut's industrial might during World War II propelled the growth of high tech electronics in the post-war era onwards. By the 1960s and 70s, Connecticut was becoming an increasingly desirable place to live, for its natural beauty, buoyant job market and some of the highest salaries per capita in the US. In particular, districts such as Fairfield County, dubbed Connecticut's Gold Coast, offered a high quality of life and attracted executives from New York City.

By the dawn of the 21st century, Connecticut's industry had shifted away from manufacturing to finance, insurance and real estate. But the state's strong maritime tradition continues, as does its lifestyle allure.

But while much has changed over the centuries, the quiet conservatism, high quality of life and strong work ethic of Connecticut's past still pervades within the fabric of its society today. ★

## ON A ROLL

**Discover the origins of Connecticut's iconic dish**

Like the blue crab dishes of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, the lobster roll has become synonymous with Connecticut cuisine and opinions abound on how best to serve it.

The origins of this New England dish began in Connecticut, at Perry's restaurant in Milford, where it reportedly first appeared as a hot dish in 1929.

At first, the lobster meat was tossed in butter and served on a hot dog bun. Its popularity spread along the Connecticut coast and variations emerged, most notably in the form of the Maine-style lobster roll, which consists of cold lobster meat mixed with mayonnaise and served in a split-top bun.

The city of Norwalk in Fairfield County, Connecticut

Images on spread: Getty; Adobe Stock (AI)

STATE NO.
1

# DELAWARE

How did one of the smallest states become the first of the US?

Words Ailsa Harvey

## BIO

**Nickname:** The First State, The Diamond State, Small Wonder

**Anthem:** 'Our Delaware'

**Admitted to the Union:** 7 December 1787

**Capital:** Dover

**Population:** 1,051,917

**Sports franchises:** N/A

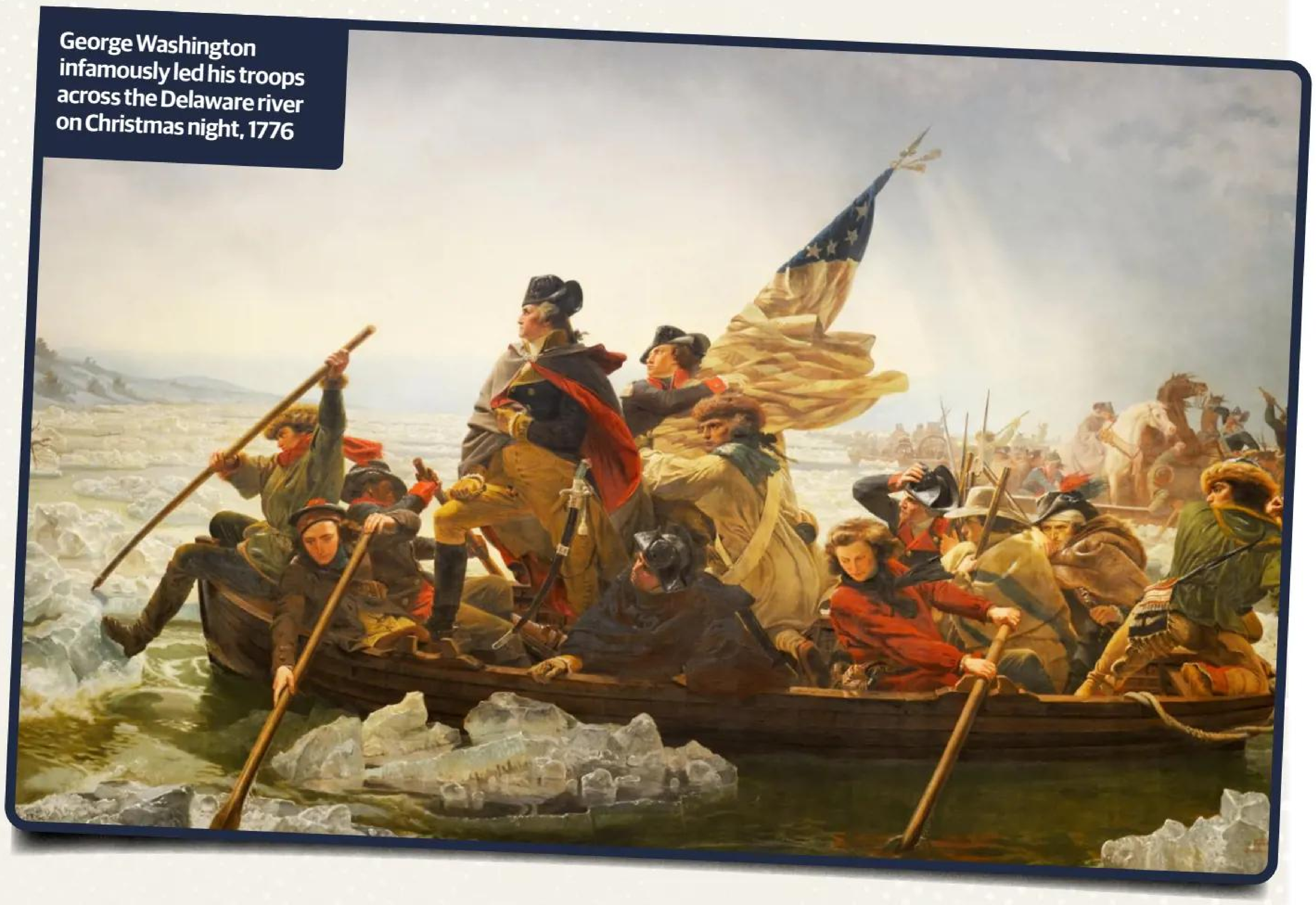
**Delaware is famous for being the first state to ratify the US Constitution.** Although Delaware is relatively small in both size and population, its significance today and historically can't be denied. After becoming a state, Delaware grew its economy and political power. The success of its growing economy is largely due to the Delaware River, which expanded the state's trade routes. By 1815, steamboats were a common sight on the river. Delaware river is the largest undammed river in the US, east of the Mississippi, and its potential was quickly recognised, with its water power used to run mills. As a result, Delaware could produce grain, textiles and paper.

During the Civil War, Delaware was in a unique position as the state boarded the North (Union) and the South (Confederacy). While the southern states seceded from the Union, Delaware remained. The border state suffered from internal conflict during the Civil War, with matters dividing the population.

## An explosive economy

After the war, Delaware's economy was greatly influenced by one gunpowder company, called the DuPont Company. Owned by Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, this business was successful in selling more than one million pounds of powder during the War of 1812. By the 20th century, DuPont had expanded the chemicals it developed and, as a hugely successful business, it helped to transform the state from one solely focused on agriculture to an industrial and financial success. It produced many jobs and attracted other relevant industries to Delaware.

While Delaware's economy has escalated since, the state and some of its communities have remained small in size. Its size and accessibility, being relatively central and accessible to other cities,



George Washington infamously led his troops across the Delaware river on Christmas night, 1776

means that it has become known as a simpler route for politicians to gain recognition and support. The close-knit community has historically made it easier for politicians to connect with voters and maintain a presence. Prominent figures, such as Joe Biden, represented the state in the US Senate between 1973 and 2009 before being elected as vice president and then president.

## Modern culture

Today, Delaware residents rejoice in their small but mighty status. It hosts spectacular natural landscapes fringed with breathtaking beaches. Most of its landscape is low-lying coastal plains, with rolling hills in the north. Delaware also hosts annual festivals that help celebrate the state's history. Dover Days, in the state's capital and the Sea Witch Festival are two of the highlights, showcasing Delaware's cultural diversity. Dover Days demonstrates historical reenactments and crafts including hand-woven baskets and colonial-era tools. Meanwhile, the Sea Witch Festival occurs around Halloween and was started initially to keep tourism in the state beyond the summer months. In a year, Delaware accepts more than 29 million visitors, proving that this small state does have an enticing nature alongside its mighty history – one of pride, resilience and transformation. ★

## THE NATION'S SUMMER CAPITAL

**Since the 1800s, this vibrant holiday destination has attracted religious groups and entertainment-seekers**

Rohoboth Beach is a popular summer destination, drawing in beachgoers from surrounding states. The charming resort town is famous for its bustling boardwalk along its beautiful beaches and is a top choice for families. Originally, however, the beach was the location of a religious camp – an idea of Reverend Robert W. Todd of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1873, the Rehoboth Camp Meeting Association was formed and 414 acres of land was bought off the local farmers. A year later the wide streets and distinctive boardwalk was constructed. The Camp Meeting Association carried out its formal meetings at Rohoboth Beach until 1881. Since then the town has been reshaped and repurposed many times. Its boardwalk has been destroyed by storms and redesigned multiple times over the years. Today, the modernised beach town has become a hub of entertainment and leisure with restaurants, shops and hotels. It is well-known for its inclusivity too, actively welcoming those from the LGBTQ+ community.

Delaware river provides drinking water for 17 million people

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO. 27

# FLORIDA

From a swampy frontier to a cultural powerhouse, Florida has evolved exponentially over the last 200 years, but it hasn't ever lost its free spirit

Words Alice Pattillo

## BIO

**Nickname:**
The Sunshine State
**Anthem:** 'Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky'
**Admitted to the Union:**
3 March 1845
**Capital:** Tallahassee
**Population:** 23,372,215
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Jacksonville Jaguars, Miami Dolphins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
NBA: Miami Heat, Orlando Magic
MLB: Miami Marlins, Tampa Bay Rays

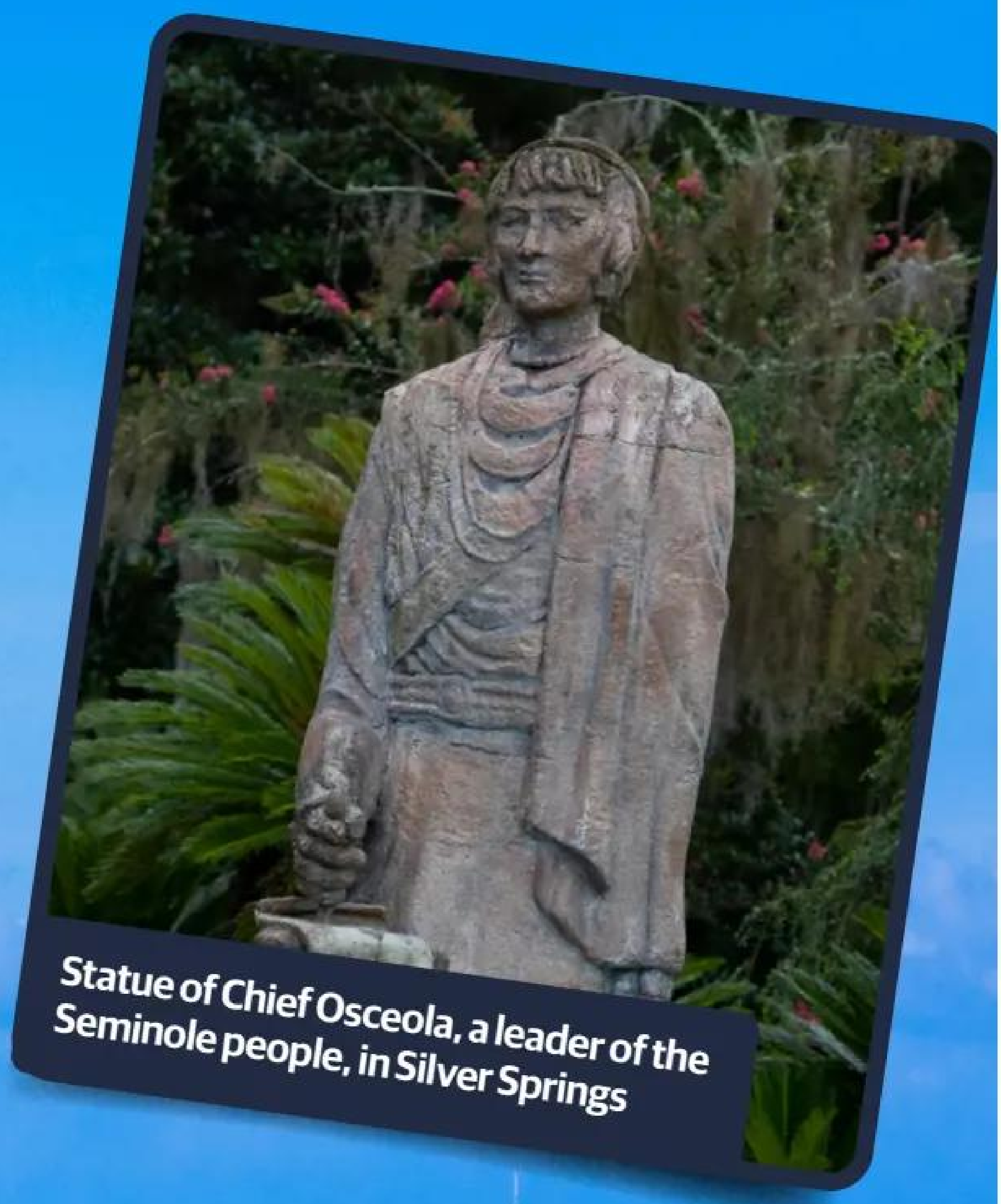
**The state of Florida has a unique, rich and diverse history that stretches back thousands of years.** Today it is a lively melting pot of cultures – renowned for its stunning beaches, the best OJ in the country, and as the nation's number one retirement destination. Floridian culture is shaped by its Latinx, Caribbean and Indigenous roots, African Americans, Jewish Americans, European Americans and White Southerners. It has made a major mark on US culture through music, art, literature, film, food and more.

But when the US acquired the territory from Spain in 1821 via the Adams-Onís Treaty, it was a relatively empty and lawless region. So how did this wild, hurricane-prone land filled with gators and snakes transform into the tropical haven we know today?

## The Floridian Frontier

In 1821, Florida was sparsely populated and mostly occupied by Seminole tribes, with whom the US had been in conflict for decades. As an uncontrolled gap between Louisiana and Mississippi, it was also a refuge for escaped slaves and fugitives. The US aimed to secure the southeastern coast, control Atlantic-to-Gulf trade routes, and establish order. Physically gaining control and governance over the strategically important territory wouldn't be an easy feat – even after Florida achieved statehood in 1845.

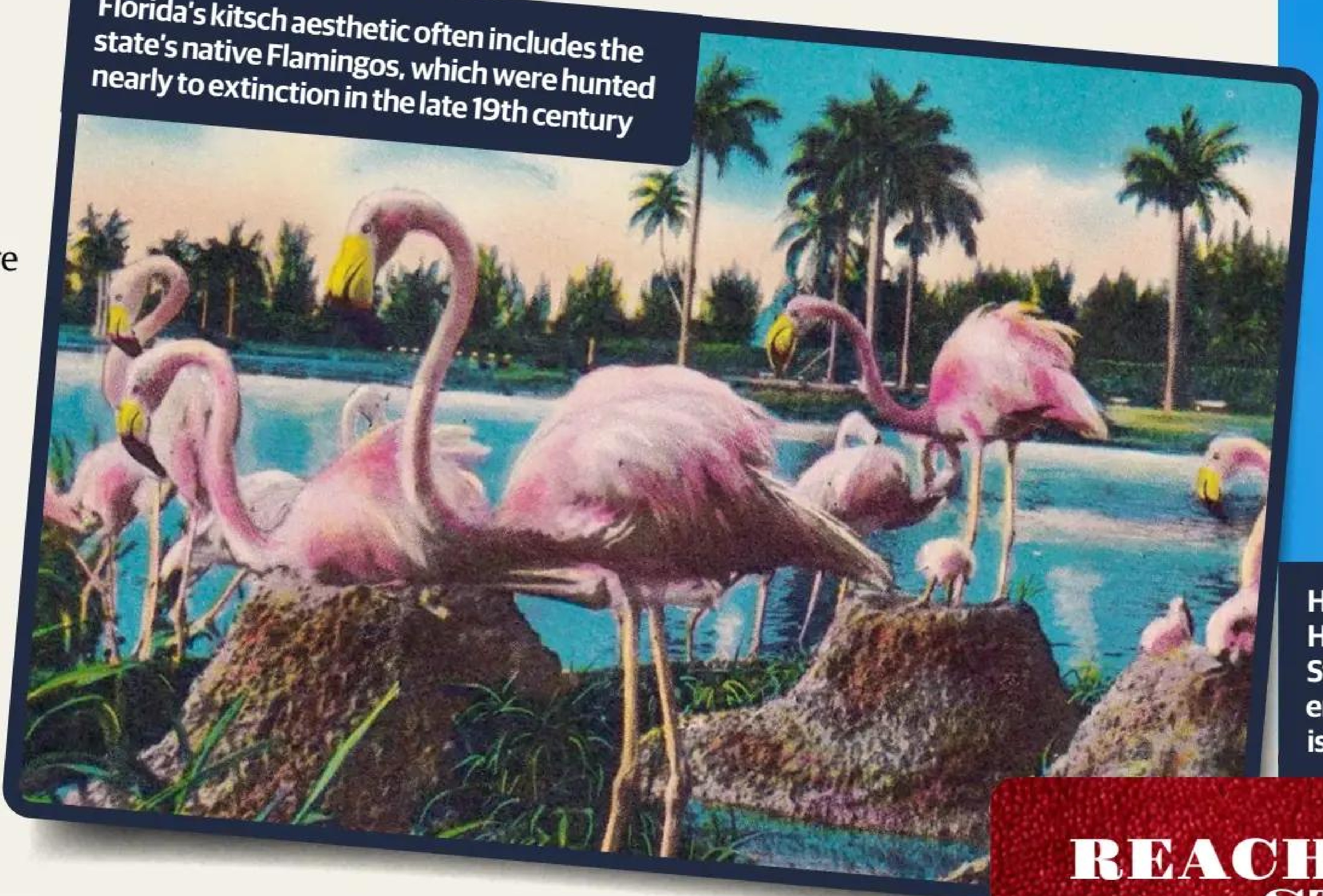
Tallahassee was established as the territorial capital in 1824, and North Florida's fertile lands attracted settlers from neighbouring states, who established cotton and sugar operations, leading to an increase in the US government's efforts to remove the Seminole – which escalated into two costly wars. The Florida War, also known as the Second Seminole War (1835–1842), ended with most Seminoles exiled to present-day Oklahoma and others retreating to the Everglades.



Statue of Chief Osceola, a leader of the Seminole people, in Silver Springs

The coastal city of Fort Lauderdale in Florida

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock



Florida's kitsch aesthetic often includes the state's native Flamingos, which were hunted nearly to extinction in the late 19th century

Florida became the 27th state in 1845, but peace was still a far cry away. The Third Seminole War (1855–1858), led by Chief Billy Bowlegs, marked the last major resistance before the majority of the remaining Seminoles left the state.

In 1861, when the American Civil War broke out, Florida joined the Confederacy. Florida rejoined the Union in 1868, forcing an end to slavery and granting citizenship to freed African Americans, who briefly gained political representation. Leaders like Jonathan C. Gibbs and Josiah T. Walls made history, but the backlash was severe. Though spared large-scale battles, its economy – driven by slave labour – was devastated due to the plantations' losing their unpaid workforce. White supremacist groups rose, and by 1877, Jim Crow laws were enacted, enforcing racial segregation.

## The Land Boom and Bust

By the late 19th century, Florida's economy was expanding. Industrialist Henry Flagler, drawn to the state by its winter warmth, was left enamoured with St. Augustine and, dreaming of an 'American Riviera', transformed the state with his Florida East Coast Railway and luxury hotels. His developments helped transform Miami into a major city.

Meanwhile, another entrepreneur, Henry Plant, built a network of railroads and steamship lines on the Gulf Coast, known as the Plant System, and established Tampa as a shipping hub, complete with the lavish Tampa Bay Hotel.

Florida was becoming a major destination for wealthy Northerners drawn by its beautiful beaches and healing, perpetually warm climate. Its proximity to Cuba made it key during the 1898 Spanish-American War – Tampa transformed into a busy launch point for troops, filled with over 30,000 soldiers, and its Cuban immigrant population, based in Ybor City and West Tampa, played a vital role in rallying support for Cuban independence.

Florida's railroad expansion fuelled a citrus boom and a wave of aggressive real estate speculation in the 1920s. Developers sold visions of paradise, turning swampland into sprawling cities, and from 1920 to 1930, the population skyrocketed by over 400%.

But the boom collapsed and Florida entered the Great Depression already in debt. Following 1929 stock market crash; tourism dropped, citrus crops were decimated by fruit flies, and work vanished. Still, Miami's rebuilding after the 1926 hurricane gave rise to South Beach's iconic Art Deco district in the 1930s, the contemporary architectural style's

Some of the Art Deco buildings on Ocean Drive that are part of Miami Beach Architectural District

Henry Flagler's luxurious Hotel Ponce de Leon in St. Augustine, constructed entirely of poured concrete, is now a liberal arts college

## REACH FOR THE STARS

**Explore outer space from Florida's sunny coast at the Kennedy Space Center**

Located on Merritt Island between Miami and Jacksonville along Florida's Space Coast, the John F. Kennedy Space Center, known simply as the Kennedy Space Center or KSC, is one of ten National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) field centers dotted across the US, but it is by far the most famous. First opening its doors in 1962 as the Launch Operations Center, it was later renamed in JFK's honour following the 36th president's death on 22 November 1963. The center's global infamy is perhaps due to the fact that it has been the launch site for all of the United States' human-crewed space flights since 1968, including the 1969 Apollo 11 lunar landing mission where astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins were launched to the Moon. The facility is also home to an extensive Visitor Complex that is open to the public. Astronomy enthusiasts can learn more about the past, present and future of NASA's explorations into outer space with museum exhibitions, experiences and attractions such as the interactive Space Shuttle Launch Experience, the immersive Astronaut Training Experience and an IMAX Theater showing space movies daily. The center also provides opportunities to meet and chat to astronauts, educational programs, and hosts regular events.

COMMAND MODULE
SERVICE MODULE

Images: Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

pastel shades and futuristic elegance fit in perfectly with Miami's palm tree dotted, sun-soaked strips and utopian vibes. With over 800 designated historic structures, the district is now the world's largest concentration of Art Deco buildings.

During this era, the Federal Government's New Deal projects brought roads (like the Overseas Highway), infrastructure and unemployment benefits, and activists like Mary McLeod Bethune, who served as President Roosevelt's chief educational officer, worked to improve schools and expand education access.

> "During WWII, Florida served as a military training base"

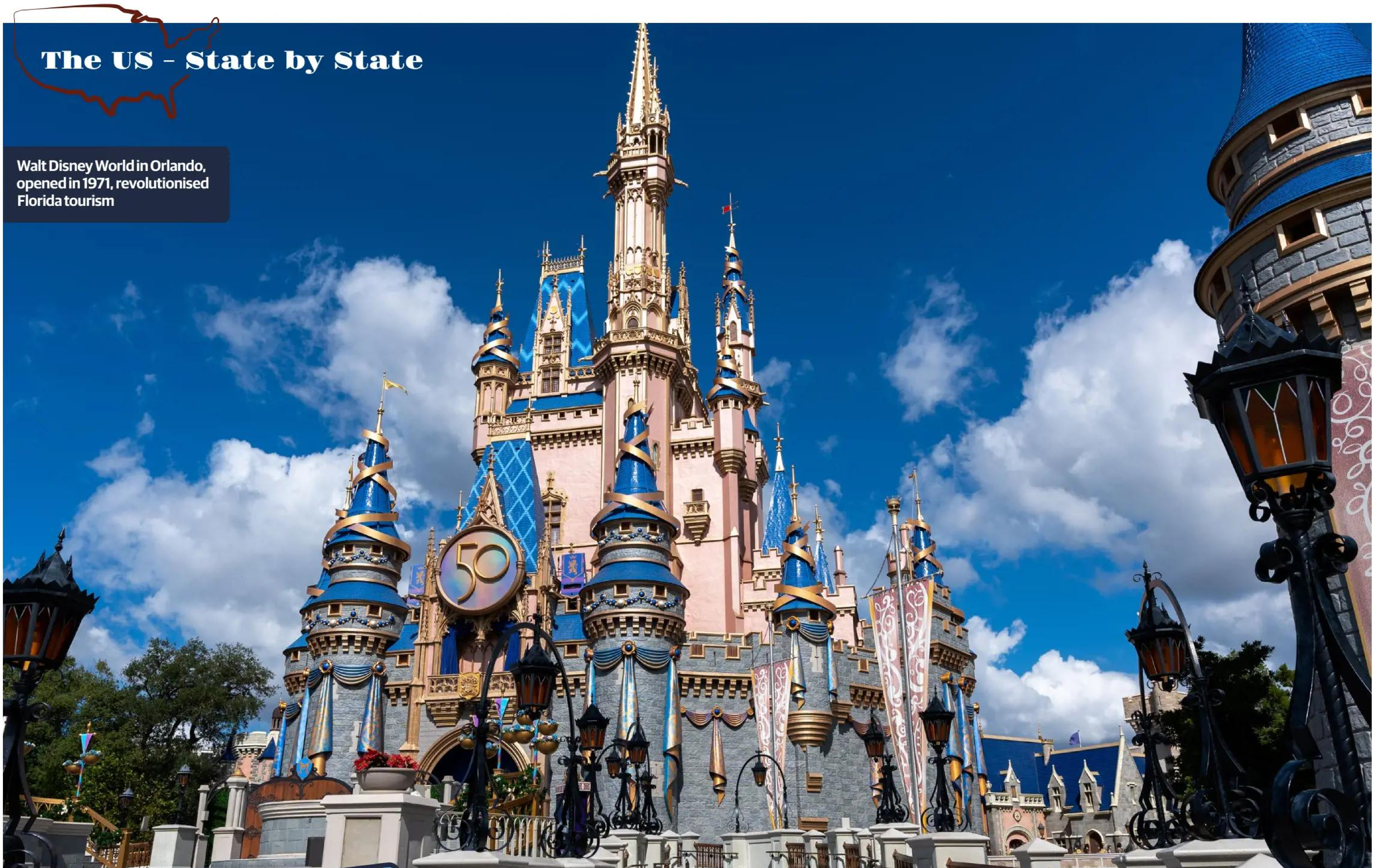
## America's Playground

During WWII, Florida served as a military training base, with many veterans settling permanently once the war ended thanks to post-war prosperity and federally funded GI housing programmes. Between 1940 and 1960, the population jumped from 1.9 to 4.9 million. Suburbs blossomed around the cities of Miami, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville and the middle class began to holiday more frequently thanks to the rise of the automobile and paid vacation time. Marketing itself as 'America's Playground', Florida's tourism industry exploded.

Beach culture became central to Florida's identity. Fort Lauderdale became the spring break capital for party-seeking co-eds by the 1960s,with Daytona Beach and Panama City Beach not far behind. Youth flocked to surf, swimwear trends took off, and attractions like Weeki Wachee Springs' mermaids, the wacky reptile-themed Gatorland and Cypress Gardens' water-ski shows helped to shape Florida's

The most famous street in Miami, Ocean Drive is in the heart of the city's Art Deco district

STREET
OCEAN DR



Walt Disney World in Orlando, opened in 1971, revolutionised Florida tourism

The entrance to Universal Studios Resort in Orlando, opened in 1990

kitschy, surreal aesthetic of orange sunsets, crisp green lawns dotted with pink flamingos and dreamy pastel beachscapes.

As well as attracting youth culture, Florida also became a haven for retirees during this period, drawn by warmth, affordability, and communities offering healthcare, recreation, and safety – beginning its long reign as the country's retirement capital.

In 1950, a missile testing site was established at Cape Canaveral, which later evolved into the Kennedy Space Center and would become NASA's headquarters during the Space Race, launching Project Mercury and Project Gemini as well as the Apollo missions. This 'Space Coast' turned the region into a booming tech hub, creating thousands of jobs that attracted the nation's leading aerospace engineers and scientists to the state.

Florida was also pivotal in the Civil Rights Movement. Floridian NAACP leaders Harry T. Moore and his wife Harriette V. S. Moore were early pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement and were tragically murdered when a bomb was detonated beneath the floorboards of their home in Mims on Christmas Day 1951, becoming the first martyrs of the movement. In 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was jailed in St. Augustine – his arrest helped to push through the Civil Rights Act. But despite legal victories, segregation and inequality remained entrenched in many parts of the state.

## A Place Where Dreams Come True

In 1971, the opening of Walt Disney World revolutionised Florida tourism. It became the world's top family vacation destination – Florida was not only a place of sun and surf, but a place where dreams come true. As Disney's biggest resort and flagship destination, it is the largest single-site employer in the whole of the United States and has led to numerous other large-scale theme parks opening up in the state, including Seaworld in 1973 and Universal Studios in 1990, and Orlando being dubbed the "Theme Park Capital of the World".

Immigration reshaped Florida's cultural identity even further during the latter half of the 20th century. After the Cuban Revolution in 1959 and the 1980 Mariel Boatlift, Miami's Cuban population soared – with immigrants including a young Gloria Estefan, who would later rise to stardom in the 1980s. The 1970s brought Puerto Rican, Vietnamese,

> "Florida is now the third most populous state in the US"

Images : Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

## ALL THAT AND A SLICE OF PIE!

**The origins of Key lime pie are often debated, but whether it was conceived in Florida or not, it sure tastes like a slice of the Sunshine State and it remains a staple treat across the region**

The official state pie since 2006, Key lime pie is a Floridian delicacy. The zesty citrus-based dessert is made from the juice of fresh Key limes, blended with sweetened condensed milk and egg yolks, stuffed into a graham cracker crust and often topped with meringue. It is most commonly believed to have originated in the southernmost area of the Florida Keys, namely Key West. The dish's name is derived from the use of Key limes, a citrus fruit cultivated in the Florida Keys. The recipe also uses sweetened condensed milk, a product popular in the state in the late-1800s, due to cows and milk being hard to come by and a lack of refrigeration meaning fresh dairy wouldn't last in Florida's perpetual heat.

However, the rest of the sweet dish's history and creation is shrouded in mystery and its story largely confined to folklore. Local legend has it that the dessert was conceived during the late 19th century by a woman known as Aunt Sally, who served as the cook of Florida's first self-made millionaire, William Curry, and later worked for Ernest Hemingway too – his former residence in Key West still serves Key lime pie to this day. Aunt Sally was thought to have adapted a recipe for lemon icebox pie, replacing the lemon with Key lime. Originally a no-bake pie, the Floridian speciality is thought to have been passed around by word of mouth. Due to the first documented recipes only dating back to the mid-twentieth century, some believe the pie was conceived by Borden condensed milk company in New York City – who published a nearly identical recipe using lemons in 1931. But the very same year, Mrs. H. Griner, a Key West resident, published a lime pie recipe in her cookbook that sounds very similar to the state's official dessert. Whatever its origins, for the best part of 100 years or more, Key lime pie has been a firm favourite of Floridians.

Filipino, and Cambodian immigrants; the 1980s and 90s added Haitians, Dominicans, Venezuelans, Jamaicans, Colombians and more – turning Florida into one of the most diverse states in the US.

South Beach saw a renaissance in the 1980s as artists and LGBTQ+ communities revitalized the Art Deco district. With its sun-drenched saturation and streamlined architecture serving as the backdrop for the iconic Miami Vice, the city's glamorous aesthetic became central to fashion, film and design worldwide.

## Extreme politics and endless possibilities

Florida is now the third most populous state in the US. It's a key player in economics and politics – often a swing state. A hotbed of innovation, Florida boasts booming industries in technology, logistics, aerospace, biotech, tourism and real estate, and enjoys a thriving art scene. The Space Coast is back in the spotlight with launches from NASA, SpaceX, and Blue Origin. The novel appeal of Florida's theme parks remains strong, while ecotourism is rising alongside concerns about climate change, sea-level rise, and hurricane resilience. The state consistently ranks as the US' top retirement destination, yet it's also one of the country's most sought after family vacation spots. Florida is a place of contradictions: dreamlike beaches and political intensity, kitsch Americana and cutting-edge technology, surreal headlines and serious influence. Both untameable and endlessly alluring, America's so-called 'weirdest' state continues to captivate the nation – and the world. ★

Below Blue Origin is just one of the space technology companies to have launched rockets in Florida

BLUE ORIGIN
BLUE ORIGIN

STATE NO.

4

# GEORGIA

## With its turbulent history and proud civil rights legacy, Georgia remains a jewel of the Sun Belt states

Words Neil Crossley

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Peach State
**Anthem:** 'Georgia On My Mind'
**Admitted to the Union:** 2 January 1788
**Capital:** Atlanta
**Population:** 11,180,878
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Atlanta Falcons
NBA: Atlanta Hawks
MLB: Atlanta Braves

**From the languid, colonial beauty of Savannah to the vibrant streets of Atlanta and Athens, Georgia is a state steeped in historic Southern charm.**

Georgia was the fourth state to ratify the US Constitution in 1788, with Augusta, on the Savannah River, as its state capital.

Its western lands were developed rapidly prompting the forced removal of Native Americans. The Creek tribes sold their lands in 1827 and migrated to Arkansas. After years of resistance, the Cherokee were the final tribe forced to undertake the notorious 'Trail of Tears' and relocate to Indian territory in what is now Oklahoma in 1838.

Like other Southern states, Georgia's reputation is blighted by the legacy of slavery. The soaring demands for cotton from British textile manufacturers led to slaves making up over 40 percent of the state's population in 1860. More than 400,000 enslaved people were freed in Georgia during and after the Civil War.

In 1861 Georgia seceded from the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War and joined the Confederacy. The Battle of Atlanta in 1864 resulted in the Union Army's General Sherman capturing the city and embarking on his infamous March to the Sea, laying waste to everything in his path.

Georgia was readmitted to the Union in 1870 and began to rebuild its economy and infrastructure, and diversify its agricultural base to encompass corn, peaches, tobacco, and livestock. By the early 20th century trade from new textile mills was being fuelled by railroads and by the 1940s and 50s, these mills had become a major force in the state's economy.

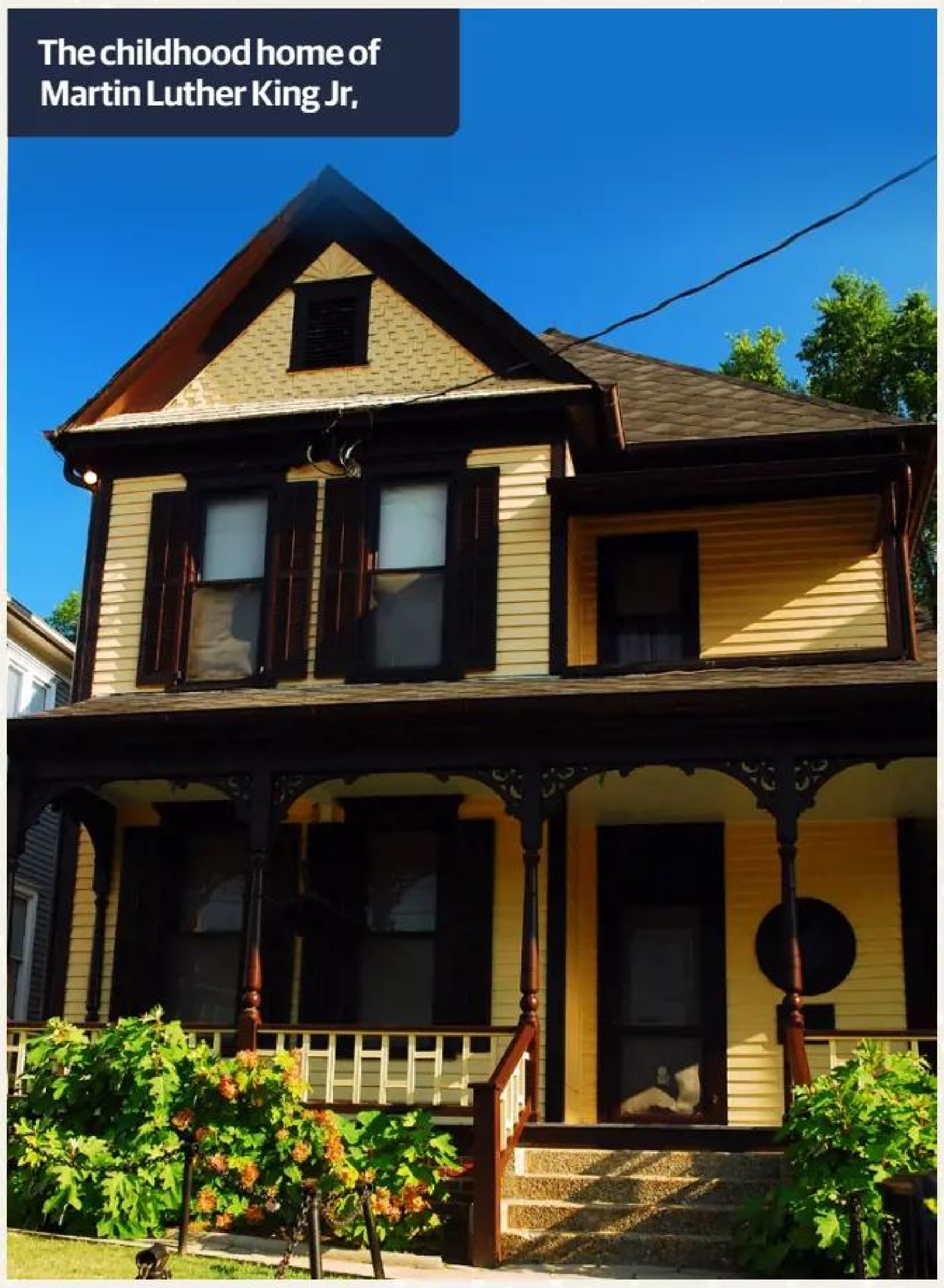
But despite the multiple social and political reforms Georgia remained in the grip of racial segregation. In the early 60s, Georgia played significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, which was led by Atlanta-born Dr Martin Luther King Jr. His non-violent activism led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

By the 1970s, progressive and moderate politicians were aiding Georgia's journey through the civil rights era, such as Maynard Jackson, who in 1974 became the city's first African American mayor.

In 1976, visionary state governor Jimmy Carter from Plains, Georgia was elected the 39th president of the United States, beckoning in an era known as the second 'New South'.

During the last three decades of the 20th century, state capital Atlanta was the epicentre of an economic and demographic resurgence of the so-called 'Sun Belt' states.

Georgia's fortunes waned in the early 21st century as manufacturing jobs moved overseas, but tax-incentive legislation for the entertainment industry brought numerous film projects, leading to its nickname as the 'Hollywood of the South'. Tourism too was fuelled by the unique landscapes, rich history and vibrant culture of 'The Peach State.' ★


The childhood home of Martin Luther King Jr.

> **"Georgia was readmitted to the Union in 1870"**

## PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES

**From Civil War decimation to economic powerhouse, Atlanta is the urban epicentre of the Deep South**

Immortalised in the 1939 film epic *Gone With The Wind*, Atlanta played a pivotal role in the American Civil War and in the decades that followed it rose to become an economic powerhouse, taking the mythical phoenix as its city seal and emblem, as it literally and figuratively rose from the ashes.

Throughout its history, Atlanta has reinvented and redefined itself and is regarded as a progressive city, particularly in the context of the South, with a vibrant culture, abundant green spaces and a friendly atmosphere.

For example, in 1996, the world's eyes were on Atlanta when it hosted the Centennial Olympic Games. But as is the case across the US, there still remains wealth inequality and large disparities between the city's white and Black residents.

Images: Wiki Commons / Public Domain

Centennial Olympic Park was built for the 1996 Olympics Games

The Georgia State Capitol building in downtown Atlanta

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

KONA COFFEE
UCC HAWAII
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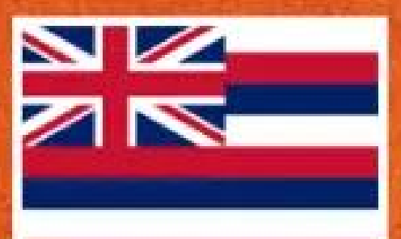
STATE NO. 50

# HAWAII

Respectful of nature, responsible for surfing and geographically stunning, Hawaii truly is the most varied US state

Words Bee Ginger



## BIO

**Nickname:** The Aloha State
**Anthem:** 'Hawai'i Pono'i'
**Admitted to the Union:** 21 August 1959
**Capital:** Honolulu
**Population:** 1,446,146
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**When describing Hawaii, the great American writer Mark Twain hailed it as "the loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean", an opinion undoubtedly shared by many.** There is something magical about this archipelago, a place made up of a combination of numerous islets, atolls and islands located approximately 6,200 kilometres (3,850 miles) from Japan and 3,860 kilometres (2,400 miles) west of California surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. Its unique location makes it one of the most isolated population centres on Earth, and its combination of differing weather and clean air provides optimum conditions for seeing numerous rainbows (Hawaii is known as the 'rainbow capital of the world').

The only state not connected to the mainland, Hawaii is also the only US state situated in the tropics and is home to rainforests teeming with endangered species, many of which are native bird species. Flora and fauna are abundant across the islands, with flowers being treasured by the Hawaiians; each of the main islands has its own flower or plant. Niihau's symbol comes in the form of a shell, a countless number of which can be found on one of the many beautiful and unusual-coloured beaches (which may have black, white, red, pink or even green sand) that line the shores of these breathtaking islands.

Hawaii is also the only US state to be made up of islands, with seven of its eight major islands being inhabited: Hawai'i (known locally as the Big Island), Lāna'i, O'ahu, Ni'ihau, Maui, Kaua'i and Moloka'i (only

When dried, the lava from the Mauna Loa volcano resembles the surface of the Moon and was an ideal location for astronauts to practise on before embarking on a lunar voyage

Kaho'olawe is uninhabited), all of which were formed by volcanic activity. The oldest island, Kauai, began to take shape over 5 million years ago, making Hawaii relatively young in comparison at approximately 600,000 years old. The active volcanoes Mauna Loa (the state's largest) and Kīlauea can be seen at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Each year Kīlauea's continuous lava flow expands the island by adding land along the southeast coastline.

In Hawaii conservation is important, with animals like hamsters, snakes and ferrets prohibited in order to protect local habitats (Hawaii is the only US state to be completely free from rabies). The human members of the community are also well cared for, being blessed with the highest life expectancy of all 50 of America's states.

There are so many unique features to these islands – including the only royal palace on American soil. Built in 1882 by King David Kalākaua, the Iolani Palace later housed his sister Queen Lili'uokalani, and it was during her reign that Hawaii's history took a dramatic turn. On 17 January 1893, a group called the Committee of Safety made up of lawyers and businessmen staged a coup d'état against the queen. A provisional government was established and while the Committe's original goal had been annexation, it would take a further five years before the Kingdom of Hawaii was overthrown on 7 July 1898.

Hawaii didn't become an official part of the US until 21 August 1959, when it was made the 50th state. The event is commemorated as an official state holiday and celebrated annually on the third Friday in August.

The island's rich culture is derived from a distinct mix of influences, merging immigrant ways with ancient Polynesian traditions that reinforce a deep respect for the sea and sacred land as well as a strong connection to ancestry. Family and community are of great importance, as is maintaining traditions.

The language is fascinating too, with many localised words for places and directions: a location is either mauka (towards the mountains) or makai (towards the sea). The alphabet is at only twelve letters long, and daylight saving time remains unobserved. Hawaii definitely feels like a state that has its priorities right. ★

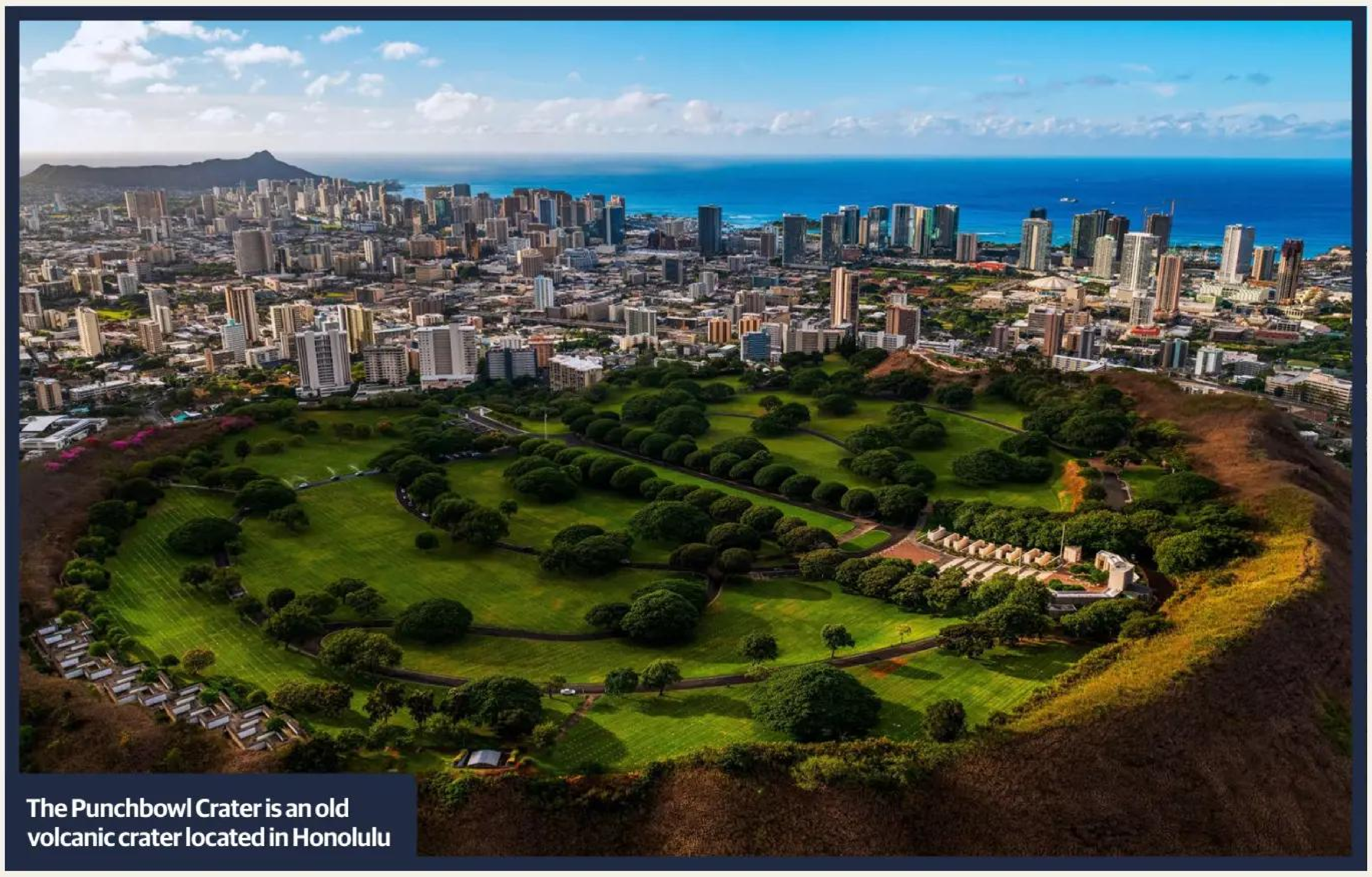
> "Hawaii is also the only US state situated in the tropics"

A coastal manta ray is pictured offshore from Kona, Hawaii

## HAWAII'S TIES TO GREAT BRITAIN

**Marking a period of time lasting cultural and trade connections and informal protection from Great Britain**

Alongside eight stripes to represent each one of its main islands, the state flag of Hawaii also features the British flag (the Union Jack) in the corner, the sign symbolising the friendship between the two kingdoms. On his first trip to the Hawaiian Islands in 1778, English explorer Captain James Cook named the area the Sandwich Islands in honour of the Earl of Sandwich, First Lord of the Admiralty. A monument of Captain Cook stands on a patch of land at Kealakekua Bay, deeded to Britain by Hawaii in 1877 as a gesture of diplomacy.


The Punchbowl Crater is an old volcanic crater located in Honolulu

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

Lucky Peak Reservoir is located on the Boise River

STATE NO.

43

# IDAHO

## Rooted in gem and silver mining, Idaho has a rich history

Words Ailsa Harvey

### BIO

**Nickname:** Gem State
**Anthem:** 'Here We Have Idaho'
**Admitted to the Union:** 3 July 1890
**Capital:** Boise
**Population:** 2,001,619
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**Before it became an official US state, Idaho was first formed as the Idaho Territory on 3 March 1863.** This was established by President Abraham Lincoln, as part of the Act of Congress, dividing parts of Washington Territory and Dakota Territory to form the land that would be Idaho state. The allocated land was home to vast plains of canyon-carving rivers and dramatic mountain peaks.

The first people drawn to the state were prospectors, keen to make their fortune from Idaho's gold. These prospectors didn't just strike gold for themselves, but launched Idaho's legacy. The settlers were successful in finding large gold deposits in towns such as Pierce and Idaho City, giving Idaho its mining reputation and bringing in traders and entrepreneurs. However, Idaho is famous for more hidden treasures, which would be uncovered in later years. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, prospectors searching the mountains soon uncovered an array of precious stone beneath them. This included opals, jade, topaz and rarer jewels such as star garnets. Idaho and India are the only two dig sites in the world where this gem can be found, making this state extremely valuable. Naturally, these lucrative discoveries became a driver of the local economies.

### The 43rd state

When Idaho became a state in 1890, it had already been a territory for nearly three decades. President Benjamin Harrison granted its statehood, before

## AMERICA'S POTATO STATE

**Why take a trip to Idaho's Potato Museum?**

Idaho typically produces over 13 billion pounds of potatoes, due to the state's volcanic soil being rich in minerals and well-draining to create the perfect growing conditions. Also credited for the success of Idado's potato industry is the Snake River, which is responsible for transporting and depositing the soil that potato farmers use across their farmland. The river feeds the soil with water – essential as potato plants need a soil makeup of 80 percent water to grow. At the Idaho Potato Museum, in the Oregon Short Line Railroad Depot, visitors can learn more about the state's history and potato perfection. Information inside includes the growing and harvesting process and top potato trivia. Showcased on its shelves are notable items such as the world's largest Pringles potato crisp, which measures an astonishing 63.5 cm (25 inches) in length.

IDAHO POTATO MUSEUM
BLACKFOOT IDAHO

> **"Idaho's history, culture and natural beauty has shaped its popularity and economic success"**

visiting to plant a tree at the Statehouse in the capital city of Boise. The road to becoming a state was less than smooth, with conflict between northern and southern surrounding the issue and Nevada attempting to claim some of Idaho's land.

Idaho kept the name it was given in the 1860s. There are different stories surrounding how Idaho got its name. Despite popular belief that Idaho was the name of an Indian chief who lived in the area, or that Idaho came from an Indian word meaning 'gem of the mountains', when Congress voted on the name they discovered that it had actually just been made up. It was mining lobbyist George M. Willing who is believed to have come up with the name, and pretended it was a Native American word.

## Continued growth

Idaho's population continues to grow. When it became a state, it had a population of over 88,000. Today it is the second-highest growing state in the US. Between 2020 and 2021 alone, Idaho's population grew by 2.9 percent.

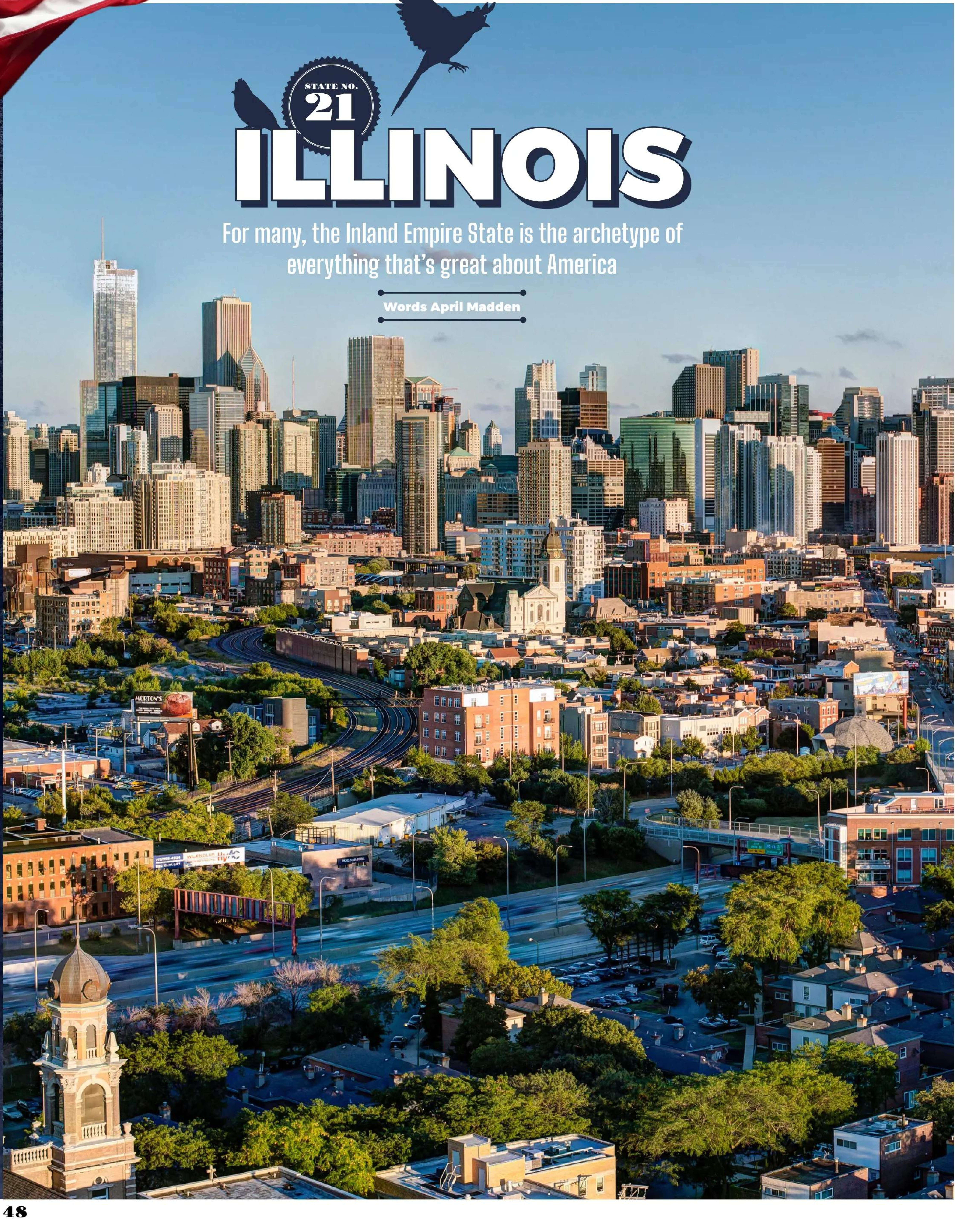
The state has grown in other ways too, such as in its contribution to science. The Idaho National Laboratory, for example, has led nuclear energy research. More than 6,400 researchers and staff work at the site and it was the first laboratory to generate usable electricity from nuclear power and also was first to power a city with atomic energy.

As a leader in agriculture, mining and science, Idaho's history, culture and natural beauty has shaped its popularity and economic success. Today, many people of Idaho celebrate their state's past and cultural traditions. To remember the state's origins, there is an annual state holiday – Idaho Day is held on 4 March every year to commemorate the anniversary of the day President Lincoln first established the Idaho territory back in 1863. ★

Idaho produces 72 types of precious and semi-precious stone

If you flattened all the mountains in Idaho, it would be the same size as Texas

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy



### STATE NO. 21

# ILLINOIS

For many, the Inland Empire State is the archetype of everything that's great about America

Words April Madden

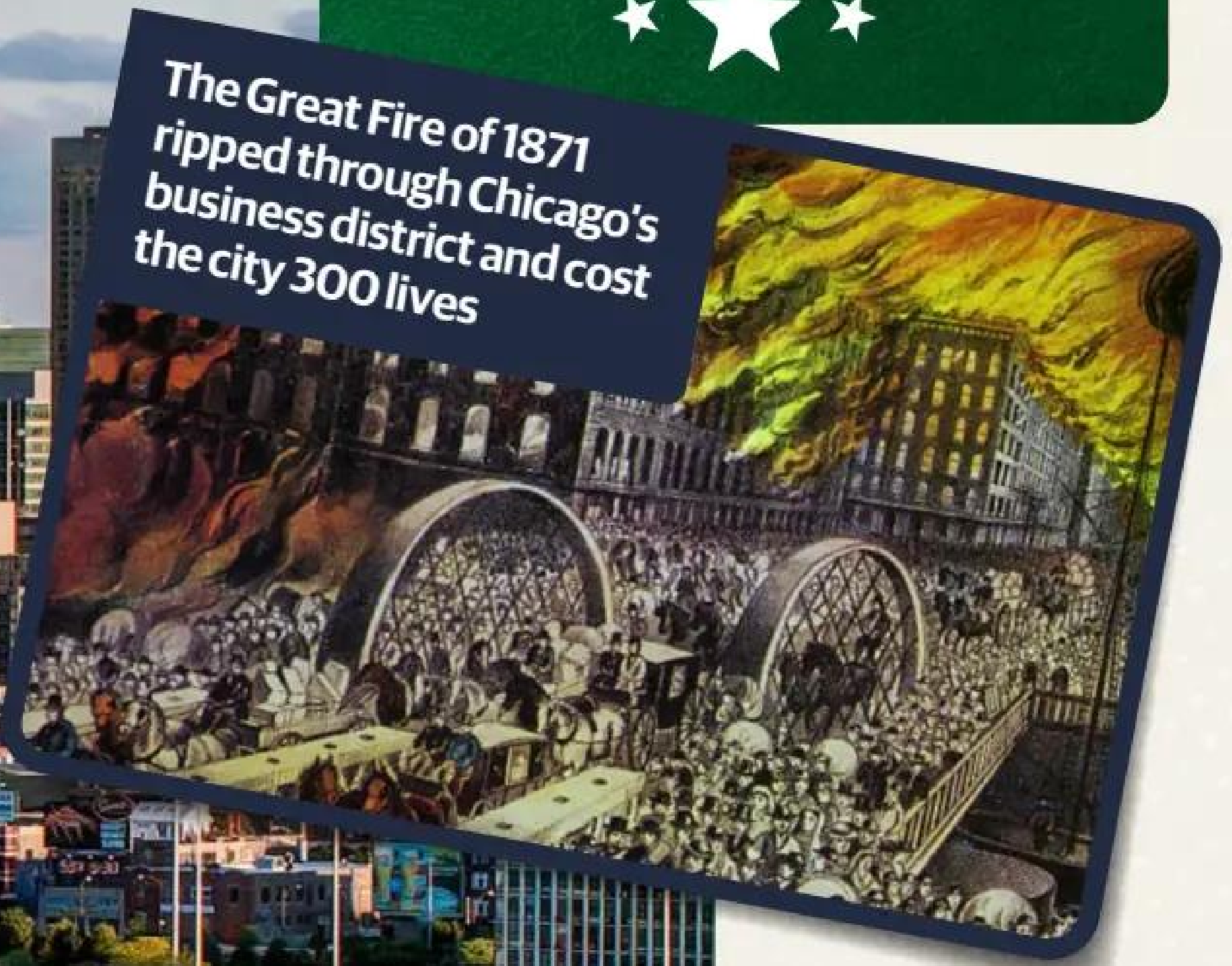
## BIO

**Nickname:** Land of Lincoln, the Prairie State, the Inland Empire State
**Anthem:** 'Illinois'
**Admitted to the Union:** 3 December 1818
**Capital:** Springfield
**Population:** 12,710,158
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Chicago Bears
NBA: Chicago Bulls
MLB: Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox

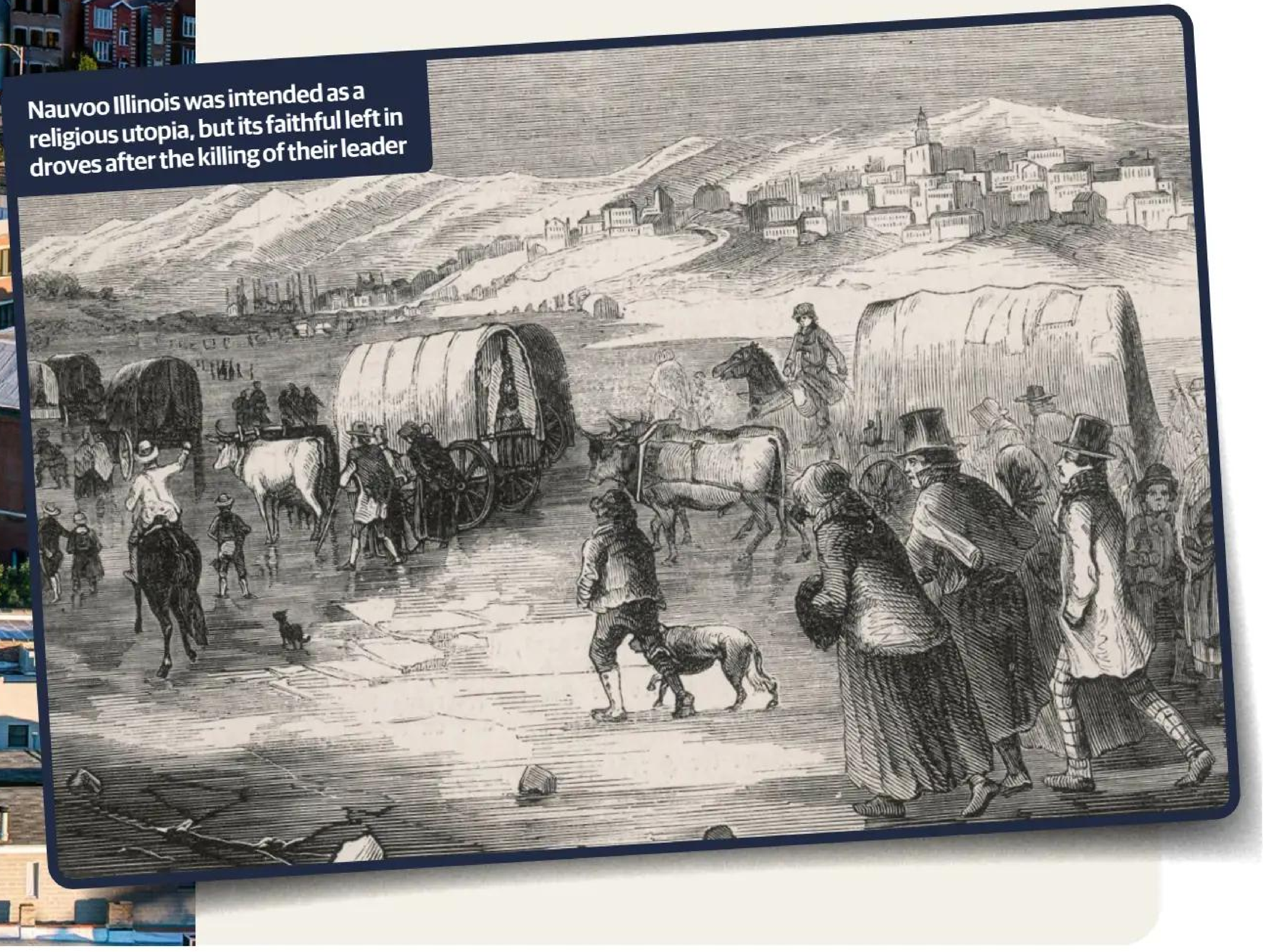
★ ★ ★

**For non-Americans who grew up on the John Hughes movies of the 1980s and 90s, Illinois is America.** Chicago and its suburbs form a major part of both the settings and shooting locations for everything from holiday favourites *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* and *Home Alone*, to Brat Pack teen classics like *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Weird Science* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Hughes wasn't the only director to see in the long suburban boulevards, elegant cities and rolling fields of the Prairie State an archetypal and iconic America that would resonate with audiences at home and abroad: John Carpenter's *Halloween* franchise is set in a fictional Illinois town, *The Blues Brothers* centres on Chicago, and titles as diverse as *Natural Born Killers*, *Mean Girls*, *Caddyshack*, and *Something Wicked This Way Comes* all find their home in the state. Ray Bradbury, author of the book the latter was based on, was an Illinois native and set many of his stories in a fictional Green Town, Illinois, that he used as a cipher for down-home all-American wholesomeness, deploying its idyllic small-town normality to throw the space travel, carnivalesque forces of darkness, and machine-modulated melancholy of his speculative fiction into bold relief.

Despite its iconic American Dream image however, Illinois has a history that in places is as dark as some of its horror movie settings. Slavery lingered long, especially in the 'Little Egypt' area of southern Illinois where many post Civil War Southern migrants made their homes, and even after emancipation many state residents were reluctant to admit free Black people for a number of years. Native Americans too were marginalised and dispossessed, notably in the Black Hawk War, when the Meskwaki, Kickapoo and Sauk tribes were forced out of their ancestral homelands in Illinois and Wisconsin. By the time Illinois had claimed the last of the Native



The Great Fire of 1871 ripped through Chicago's business district and cost the city 300 lives



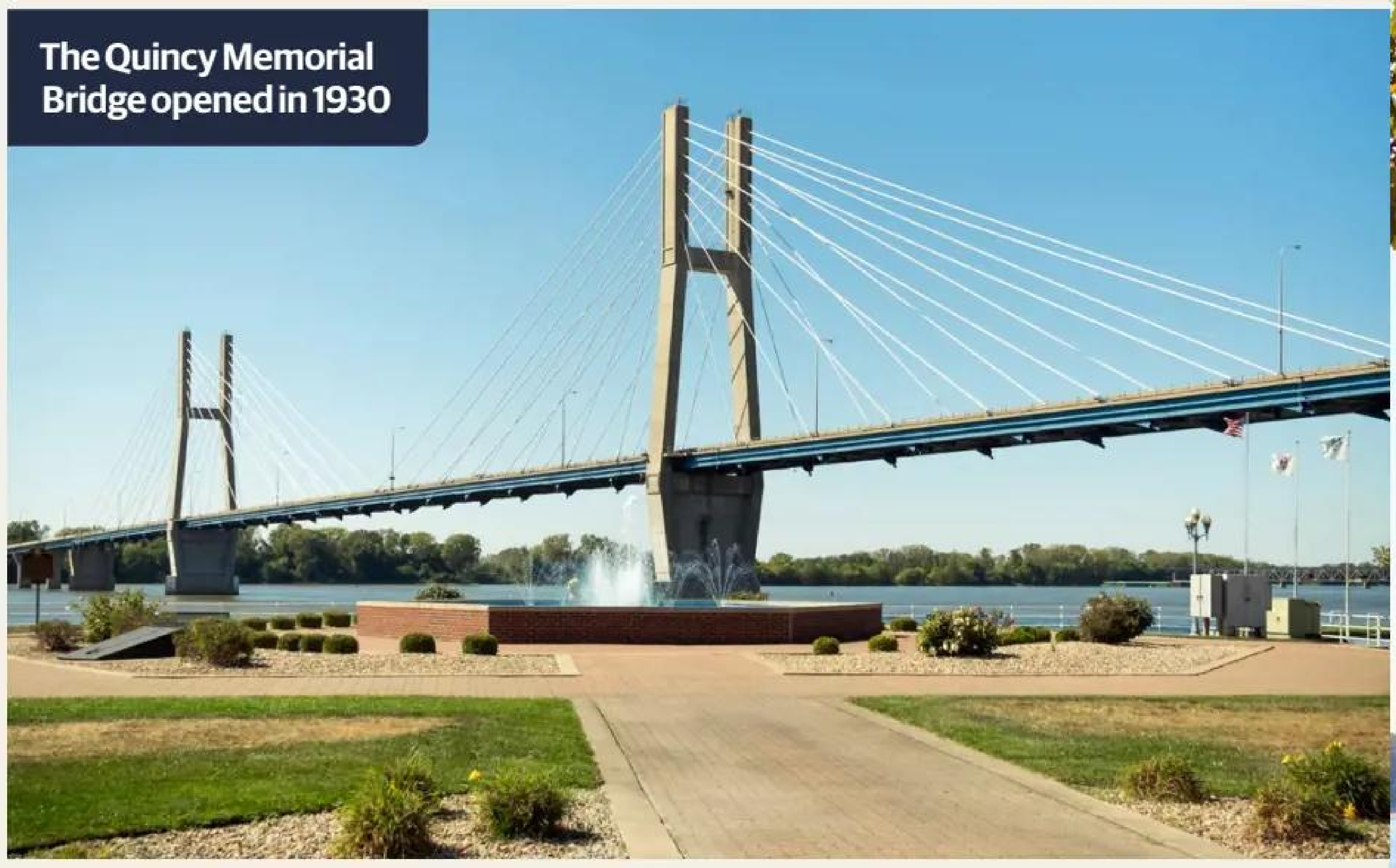
Nauvoo Illinois was intended as a religious utopia, but its faithful left in droves after the killing of their leader

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

lands, their original residents had been decimated by war, forced migration and European diseases.

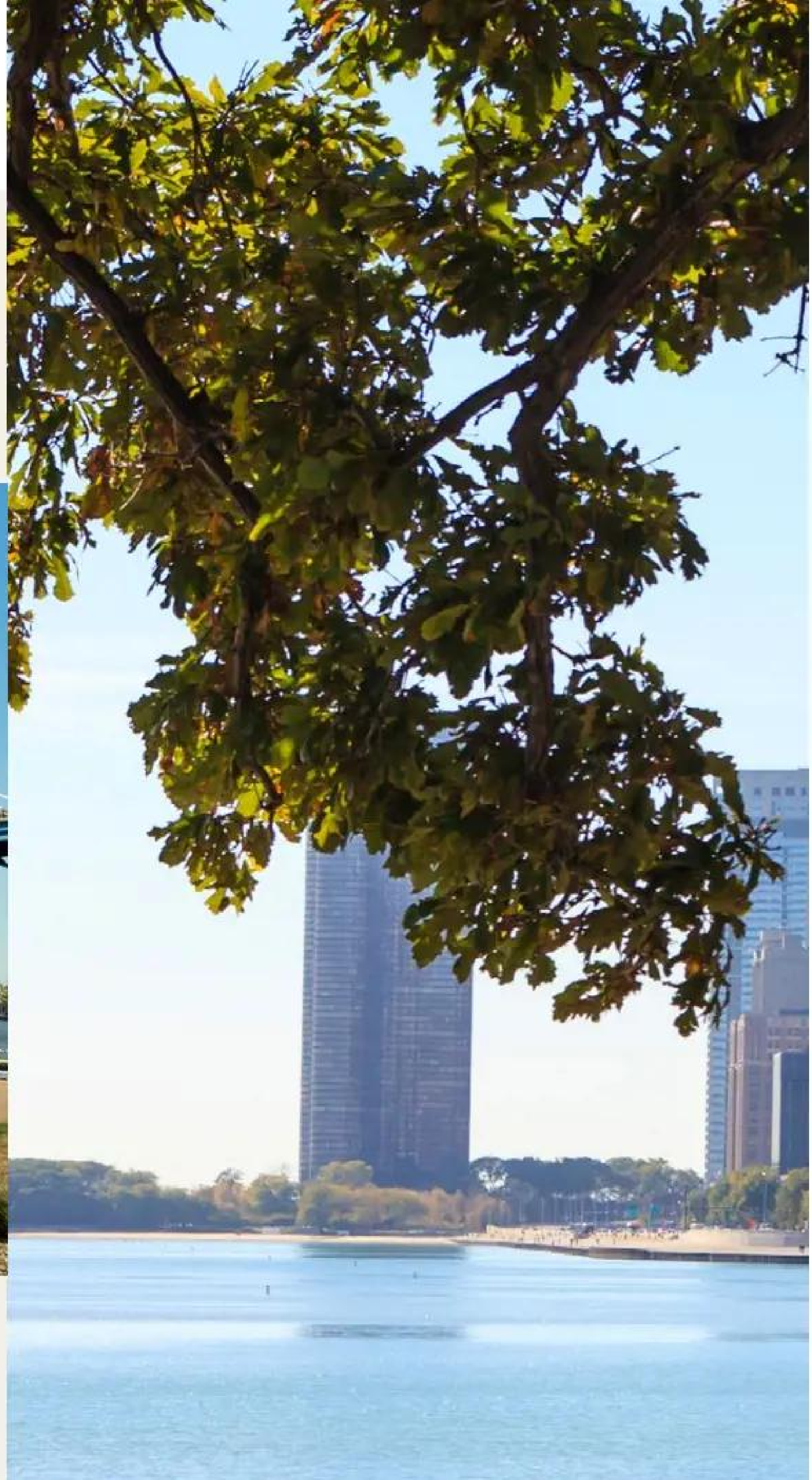
But the settlers had problems of their own. In the 1830s a series of climactic events shook the state. Always prone to cold winters, the 'Winter of the Deep Snow' in 1830-31 and the 'Winter of the Sudden Freeze' in Christmas 1836 rendered the northern reaches of the state impassable, blanketed by snow and ice. People perished and crops failed, and only emergency rations shipped from the milder south of the state saved the north from starvation. It's thought this is how the south gained its 'Little Egypt' nickname, after the biblical story of Joseph, a Hebrew slave who saved ancient Egypt from famine. And in a story that parallels the biblical Exodus, the Church of the Latter Day Saints, which had previously based itself in a utopian religious city it called Nauvoo (founded on the site of Commerce, Hancock County), led its faithful out of Illinois and into Utah after a succession crisis prompted by the imprisonment and mob slaughter of founder Joseph Smith. Once the largest city in Illinois, Nauvoo declined rapidly after the Mormon community left it, allowing Chicago to ascend to the primacy it still has today.

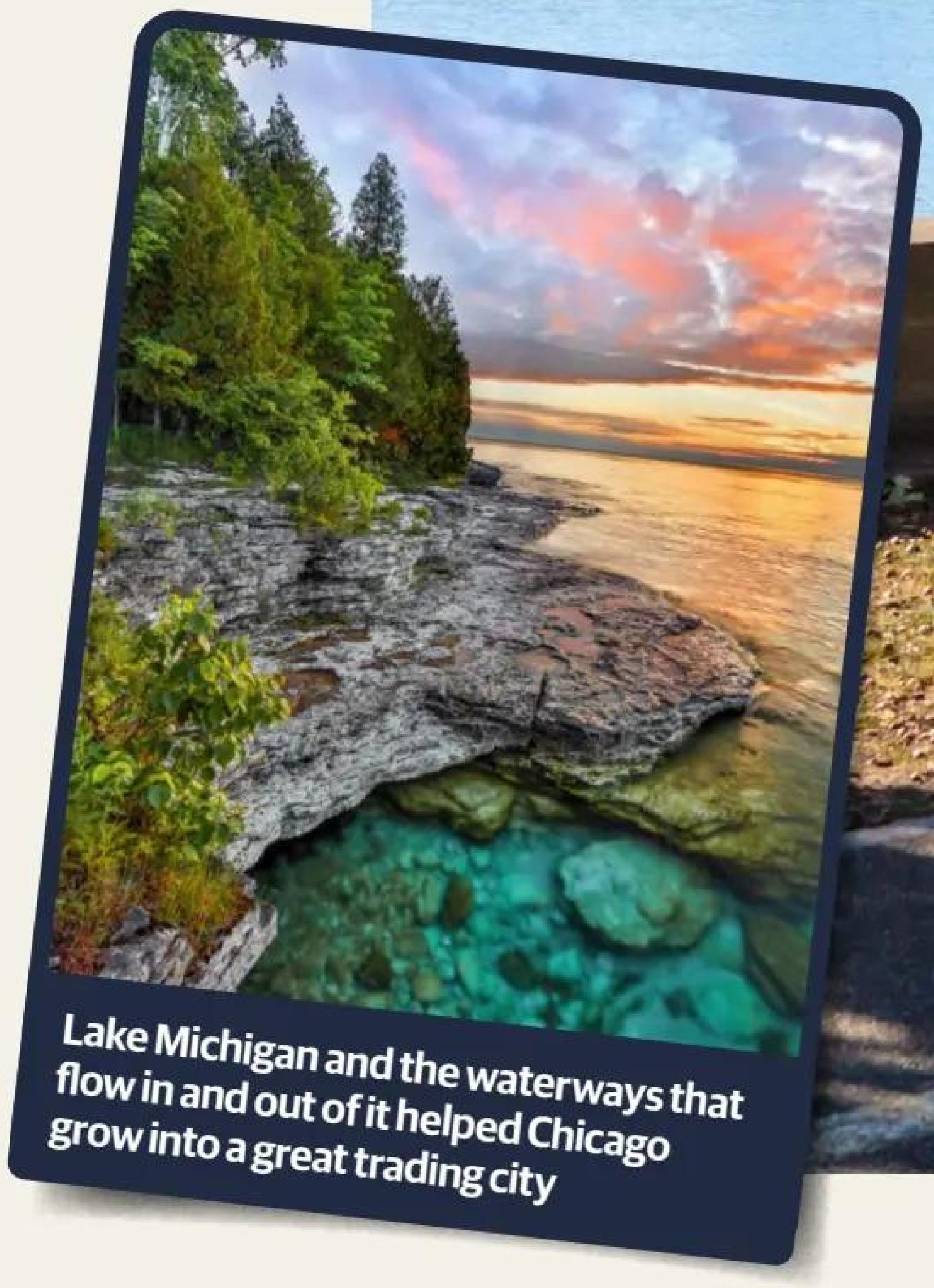
Having fought tooth and nail for a Lake Michigan shoreline during its entry to the union, Illinois' largest city soon capitalised on its prime location. With strong railroad and water transport links, Chicago was soon a thriving trade hub, even despite a devastating fire in 1871 that ripped through its business district. The Great Chicago Fire, precipitated by a hot, dry fall, raged for two days that October, taking with it over 300 lives and almost four square miles of the city. Twice the weather conditions helped it to leap the Chicago River itself ( it is not for nothing that Chicago is known as the Windy City). Various explanations have been put forward for the cause of the devastating blaze, from a cow knocking over a lantern to a series of fires that plagued the Midwest in the fall of that year, which at the time were blamed (inaccurately) on fragments of Biela's Comet, which had split and vanished from the skies some years before.


The Quincy Memorial Bridge opened in 1930

Despite the faulty science behind the comet theory, Illinois soon became a hotspot for scientific and technological research. During World War II, the University of Chicago participated in the Manhattan Project, creating the first sustained nuclear chain reaction. Fermilab, housing what was once the world's largest particle accelerator, opened in 1967. Illinois still generates more electricity from nuclear power than any other state in the union. And even though it's a nuclear powerhouse, one of America's most important manufacturing centres, and home to the US' third most populous city (Chicago), much of downstate Illinois is still rolling farmland and even prairie. The state has been the home base of three presidents – Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant and Barack Obama – boasts its own unique style of blues music and is the original home of house music, and still today thanks to its premier location is a national hub for air, road, rail and water traffic. Illinois is a state that pulled itself up and determined to make itself a success, and its hard work has continued to pay off. It may be idealised in many of the movies it features in, but the Land of Lincoln is still very much an icon of the American Dream. ★

**"Much of downstate Illinois is still rolling farmland and even prairie"**




Lake Michigan and the waterways that flow in and out of it helped Chicago grow into a great trading city

Rural Illinois can be a quintessentially American idyll of rolling fields and prairie

## A RECORD-BREAKING DROUGHT

The Chicago Cubs went over a century without a World Series win

108 years. That's how long it took the Cubs to win the World Series again. After a couple of barnstorming seasons in 1907 and 1908 when they took home almost every trophy going, the Chicago Cubs entered one of the longest droughts in sports history. It would take until 2016 for them to take home the World Series trophy again. While the early part of their drought coincided with the so-called 'dead ball era' of baseball, when fewer home runs were scored by teams across the board, the majority of the longest trophy drought in North American sports history was spent during one of baseball's golden ages. Despite not taking home a trophy for over a century, the Cubs fielded plenty of hall-of-famers and some of the top home-run hitters ever seen.

HEYWARD
66
17

The Chicago Cubs take home the World Series trophy for the first time in 108 years in 2016

Images: Alamy; Getty

STATE NO.
19

# INDIANA

Explore the history behind the Hoosier State's culture of cornfields, crossroads and sports courts

Words Ailsa Harvey

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Hoosier State
**Anthem:** 'On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away'
**Admitted to the Union:** 11 December 1816
**Capital:** Indianapolis
**Population:** 6,924,275
**Sports franchises:**
NBA: Indiana Pacers
NFL: Indianapolis Colts

★ ★ ★

**When Indiana became the 19th US state in 1816, its borders on today's maps were established.** Within these boundaries, Indiana was still largely unsettled woodland and farmland. The original capital city, Corydon, was where the first governor of the Indiana Territory, William Henry Harrison, lived. The city also had a limestone courthouse, the Harrison County Courthouse, which served as the state's legislative building and was where the state's constitution was drafted. Corydon was near the state's south-east border and so, by 1825, the government moved the capital to the purpose-built capital Indianapolis, to establish a more central city base.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Soon after being admitted to the Union, Indiana's infrastructure evolved. The government prioritised the building of roads, canals and railroads to connect the state. The Michigan Road, running north to south through Indiana, was constructed in the 1830s and the section through Indiana was the last to be built. When in place, these transportation and trade routes helped the state's economy flourish.

The first governor of the state of Indiana was Jonathan Jennings, who lived until 1834 and heavily influenced the early transition of the state into statehood. In addition, he actively worked to ban slavery in Indiana and ran against pro-slavery governor Harrison. By the time of the Civil War in 1861, Indiana had a population of 1,350,428 and over 15% of this served in the war. Only one battle took place within Indiana's borders – the Battle of Corydon in July 1863. In this battle the Confederate states (the South) were victorious over the Union (the North), which Indiana had sided with for the goal of preserving the Union. The war further increased movement of Indiana's population from the south of the state to the central and northern areas, while also increasing industrialisation of Indiana. Factories for steelworks, car and electrical manufacturing cropped up across the state, with significant growth in the cities of Indianapolis, Gary, Fort Wayne and South Bend.

The Indiana Pacers basketball team joined the NBA in 1976

## AGRICULTURE AND IDENTITY

Although the economy diversified after the Civil War, Indiana's agricultural landscape and community has continued to play a significant part in the state's identity. In 2017, over 63 percent of Indiana's land was dedicated to its 56,800 farms. Thanks to the rich soil and ideal climate of the state, corn has been grown as a primary crop in Indiana for centuries, and almost half of the state's cropland is used to grow it.

People from Indiana are referred to as 'Hoosiers', and this has been widely used since the 1830s, but the origin of this term remains a mystery. Today's Hoosiers are known for their mostly rural livelihoods and thriving farming communities. Indiana is often referred to as the 'Crossroads of America', due to its central location and connection to major interstate highways, allowing the state to efficiently distribute goods from its agricultural and industrial bases. In particular, Indiana is a national hub for the production of automobiles, industry machinery and pharmaceuticals.

Sport remains at the heart of Indiana's culture, too. Basketball in particular is a widespread passion in the state, and the population's attitude to matches is often referred to as 'Hoosier Hysteria'. As the game only needs a minimum of five people to form a team, this sporting culture evolved from rural areas being able to field teams in smaller, rural towns and schools. From these farmland roots to becoming a leading state in industry and sport, Indiana's tale has so far been one of growth, community and passion. ★

## INDIANAPOLIS 500

**Since 1911, the Indy 500 has been a tradition ingrained in the nation's sporting culture**

Indiana is the home of the famous annual automobile race, the Indianapolis 500, commonly known as the Indy 500. For over a century, this 805 kilometre (500 mile) race has taken place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis and it is one of three that makes up the Triple Crown of Motorsport – alongside the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Monaco Grand Prix. The only years that the race didn't go ahead was during the war years of 1917-18 and 1942-45. Every year, the Indy 500 attracts hundreds of thousands of people, making it one of the most popular single-day sporting events in the world.

There are around 20,000 corn and soybean family farms in Indiana

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock

STATE NO.

29

# IOWA

Iowa's success grew from its fertile land but was maintained by its community values and beliefs

**Words Ailsa Harvey**

## BIO

**Nickname:**
The Hawkeye State
**Anthem:** 'The Song of Iowa'
**Admitted to the Union:**
28 December 1846
**Capital:** Des Moines
**Population:** 3,241,488
**Sports franchises:** N/A

Did you know that one Iowa family grows enough food to feed 279 people? This is largely due to the state's fertile soil, which is black prairie soil. Prairie plants once covered the state and were crucial in the soil's formation as they decomposed and added nutrients to the ground. It was this fertile soil that drew settlers to the region in the early 1830s. One of the Native American tribes, who called this land home at the time, was the Iowa tribe, which the state was then named after.

Iowa becme part of the US in 1803, three decades before the arrival of US settlers, due to the Louisiana Purchase. This was when the US bought enough territory from France to nearly double its size, with the land that now makes up Iowa being part of it. The new territory was soon organised into agricultural areas, driving trade and launching the state's growing economy. Since this time, Iowa has evolved to increase its agricultural status.

The Iowa Territory was officially established in 1838, and after the Black Hawk War in 1832, the rise in population led to a push for statehood. After years of dispute over boundaries, Iowa's borders were finally agreed upon when it was admitted into the Union in 1846. At the time statehood was granted, the original capital of Iowa was Iowa City. In 1857, this was revised and moved to the more centrally located Des Moines.

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Iowa's community was built from small towns surrounding family farms. Communities came together due to commonalities such as shared work, faith and to establish schools for education. In the

There are many signs of Dutch influence in Pella

1840s and 1850s, Eastern Iowa played a significant role in the Underground Railroad, an organised system that helped escaped slaves reach safety in the north of the US or in Canada. Many Iowans were driven to help by their shared religious belief that slavery was wrong. Anti-slavery Quakers played a lead role in this event and there are 100 names of people in Iowa who were known to have helped, despite it being against the law.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, new cultures seeped into the state, with the influx of immigrants from Germany, Scandinavia, The Netherlands and Ireland. There are many signs across Iowa today of the influence of these cultures and religions. For example, many town names came from these countries. The towns Thor and Holland were named after the Norse god and the Netherlands respectively. Meanwhile, the architecture in the town of Pella is very Dutch and this is where an annual Tulip Time festival is still held today.

One of Iowa's most consistent strengths has been its agricultural success. Today, the state is one of the US' leading beef, pork, corn, soybean and grain producers. Iowa continues to have many small-town communities that celebrate their community spirit alongside their farming successes. However, the state's rural population has declined by more than 278,000 people from 1940 to 2020. In response to changing times, the state continues to modernise, embracing renewable energy and becoming a significant contributor to medical research thanks to institutions like the University of Iowa. ★

Iowa has 37,000 soybean producers

## THE IOWA STATE FAIR

**One of the US' oldest and largest agricultural fairs has international appeal**

Iowa is famous for its largest event – the Iowa State Fair in the capital of Des Moines. More than one million people flock to the fair, travelling from across the globe to attend this 11-day event in August. The diverse activities and competitions celebrate Iowa's agricultural heritage, including livestock exhibitions, antique shows, concerts, flea markets, trade shows and many other events that vary with each year.

The state fair has been at the heart of Iowa since it first took place in 1854, managed by the Iowa State Agricultural Society. To get into the event in the earliest years, admission cost just 25 cents – in 2025 it is $16 at the gate. Winners of each competition received a red ribbon if they came first, white for second and blue for third. Today, successful competitors are still awarded ribbons of corresponding colours. Over the decades, the Iowa State fair has evolved to be larger, more diverse and more extravagant. But, the celebratory atmosphere and acknowledgement of the state's success in agriculture has remained constant.

Agricultural competitions are paired with fairground rides, food stalls and other entertainment

Images: Wiki Commons / NicoFlynn

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
34

# KANSAS

## The 34th US state boasts expansive beauty of the Great Plains that produced tight-knit rural communities

**Words Ailsa Harvey**

### BIO

**Nickname:**
The Sunflower State
**Anthem:**
'Home on the Range'
**Admitted to the Union:**
29 January 1861
**Capital:** Topeka
**Population:** 2,970,606
**Sports franchises:** N/A

★ ★ ★

Kansas is a central state of 213,100 square kilometres (82,278 square miles)

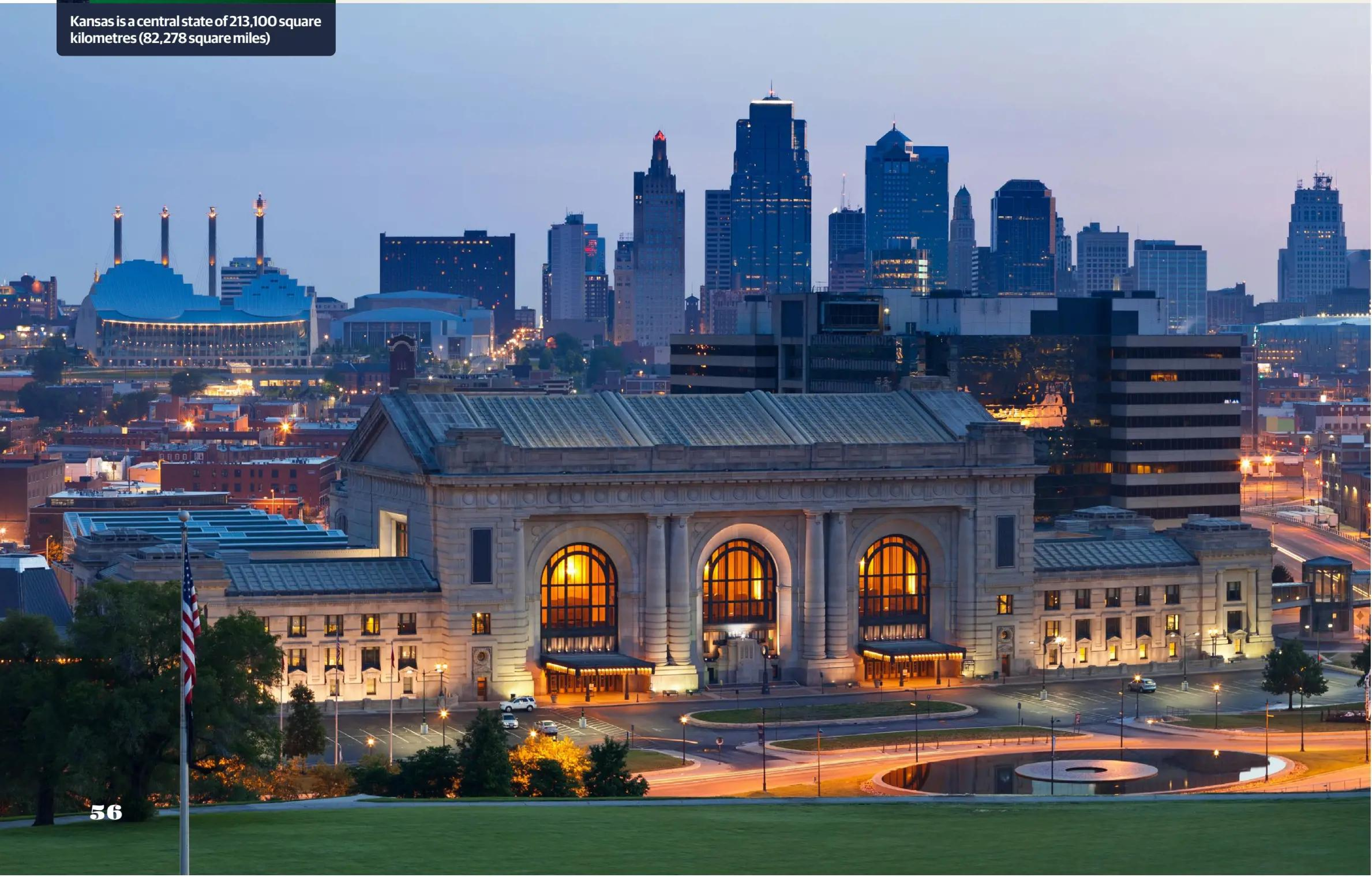
**Before becoming a US state, Kansas' land was part of that acquired by the nation during the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.** Providing new territory for US settlers, the vast open landscapes made ideal environments to launch the state's successful future in agriculture. Without the Louisiana Purchase, Kansas simply wouldn't exist.

From 1854 to 1861 there was a series of violent conflicts in the territory – triggered by the question of whether it would join the Union as a slave state or a free state – known as Bleeding (or Bloody) Kansas. But, after joining the Union as a free state in 1861 tensions settled as the region became commitment to freedom and equality.

### FARM-LED ECONOMY

Agriculture has continued to serve as a skeleton of the state's success throughout history. In 1862, the government launched the Homestead Act, which meant that people over 21 years old could receive 160 acres of land to own, as long as they committed to living there for five years and improving its condition. This movement brought an increased population to Kansas, ready to make their fortune and livelihood in farming, as well as boosting the state's economy and trade.

Kansas' triumph in producing staple crops such as wheat, corn, and sorghum – as well as the abundance of cattle-grazing areas – places Kansas as an essential contributor to America's Breadbasket. The breadbasket of America includes the Midwestern



“Kansas’ lands have enabled agricultural consistency”

Kansas is the top US producer of the grain sorghum

Sunflowers are an iconic symbol of the state

Cattle graze amongst Kansas’ abundant sunflowers

United States, mostly in the Great Plains region, that contributes significantly to wheat production. Annually, Kansas produces around 50 bushels of wheat per acre. One bushel is equal to 27.22 kilograms (60 pounds) of grain.

Before the mid-1880s, the state of Texas had no rail service, prompting Texan cowboys to herd their cattle across the vast, unfenced plains to Kansas. This created cattle industry hubs known as “cow towns” to crop up across the state. The open-range cattle drive system collapsed by the 1890s with the introduction of barbed-wire fences, development of Texas rail links and a state ban on the importation of Texan cattle. However, Kansas’ ranchers shifted their focus from quantity to quality, allowing the state to remain one of the nation’s top beef producers even today.

## THE SUNFLOWER STATE

Aside from wheat, another crop that thrives on the lands of Kansas and has provided it with warm vibrance as well as a famous nickname, is the sunflower. The weather in the state is near perfect for growing sunflowers, with Kansas having an annual sunlight percentage of 65 percent. Additionally, the varied soil, clay and sand landscapes of the state are all grounds that sunflowers can thrive in. The people of Kansas are proud to have adopted the sunflower as a state-wide symbol, which has been incorporated into their flag.

By the 2020s, around 90 percent of Kansas’ land was dedicated to farming. Although wheat remains the key crop of the industry, but the state’s relatively flat terrain provides plenty of space for a range of goods – at least 120 different types of agricultural produce. Kansas’ lands have enabled agricultural consistency, grounds for decades of history and a future to flourish. ★

## ICONIC KANSAS STATEHOUSE

**The heart of Kansas’ government is a symbol of state pride**

In the capital city of Topeka, the Kansas Statehouse is the seat of government for the state, where its laws are proposed and debated. The grand building features 17 different types of marble from different countries, crystal, granite and gold-leaf paint – and it is the second tallest traditional dome Capitol in the US. The building itself was a 37-year-long project, being constructed from 1866-1903. Its completed, striking copper dome reaches a height of 93 m (304 ft). The Kansas Statehouse is more than just a visual statement, but a representation of the state’s role in shaping national political debates and Kansas’ voice.

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock

STATE NO.

15

# KENTUCKY

The horse capital of the world, Kentucky is also famed for bourbon, natural beauty, and a vibrant economy

Words Michael E. Haskew

## BIO

**Nickname:**
The Bluegrass State
**Anthem:**
'My Old Kentucky Home'
**Admitted to the Union:**
1 June 1792
**Capital:** Frankfort
**Population:** 4,588,372
**Sports franchises:** N/A

★ ★ ★

**Admitted to the Union as the 15th state, Kentucky was the first state west of the Allegheny mountain range.** Its territory was carved from the sprawling land of colonial Virginia, and the wilderness was explored by the legendary Daniel Boone who blazed a trail for settlers through the Cumberland Gap.

European settlers, many of German descent, also ventured west of the mountains via the Ohio River, and within a generation of early expansion Kentucky had been brought into the national fold. Isaac Shelby was a key figure in the pursuit of statehood and served as the first governor of Kentucky, following the establishment of Harrodsburg, the oldest town in the state, by James Harrod, and the delaying influence of James Wilkinson in the adoption of Kentucky's first constitution.

The early economy of Kentucky was centred on trade and agricultural pursuits, as staples such as tobacco and corn were prominent. By 1800, the state's population had grown to 220,000 with a quarter of these enslaved people. Although many Kentuckians were subsistence farmers, large plantations were located primarily in the southern and western areas of the state, and these were dependent on slave labour. The state played a prominent role in the War of 1812.

By 1820, Kentucky had become a crossroads, not only of western expansion, but also in the political discourse that swirled around the question of slavery. Henry Clay emerged in Congress, serving in

## THE KENTUCKY DERBY

**A sports spectacle, the Kentucky Derby is the crowning event in horse racing**

Hailed as the most "exciting two minutes in sports," the Kentucky Derby is held on the first Saturday in May each year at Churchill Downs, a legendary race track instantly recognised with its twin spires, in metropolitan Louisville. The course covers 1.25 miles (2 km), and the finest racing equine thoroughbreds in the world vie for glory and a substantial financial purse during the "Run for the Roses." First held in 1875, the Kentucky Derby attracts more than 150,000 spectators each year. The names of thoroughbred winners resonate across the decades, including Secretariat, which set the track record in 1973 at one minute, 59.4 seconds, a mark that still stands tody, along with Spectacular Bid, Citation, Swaps, Count Fleet, Seattle Slew, Whirlaway and others.

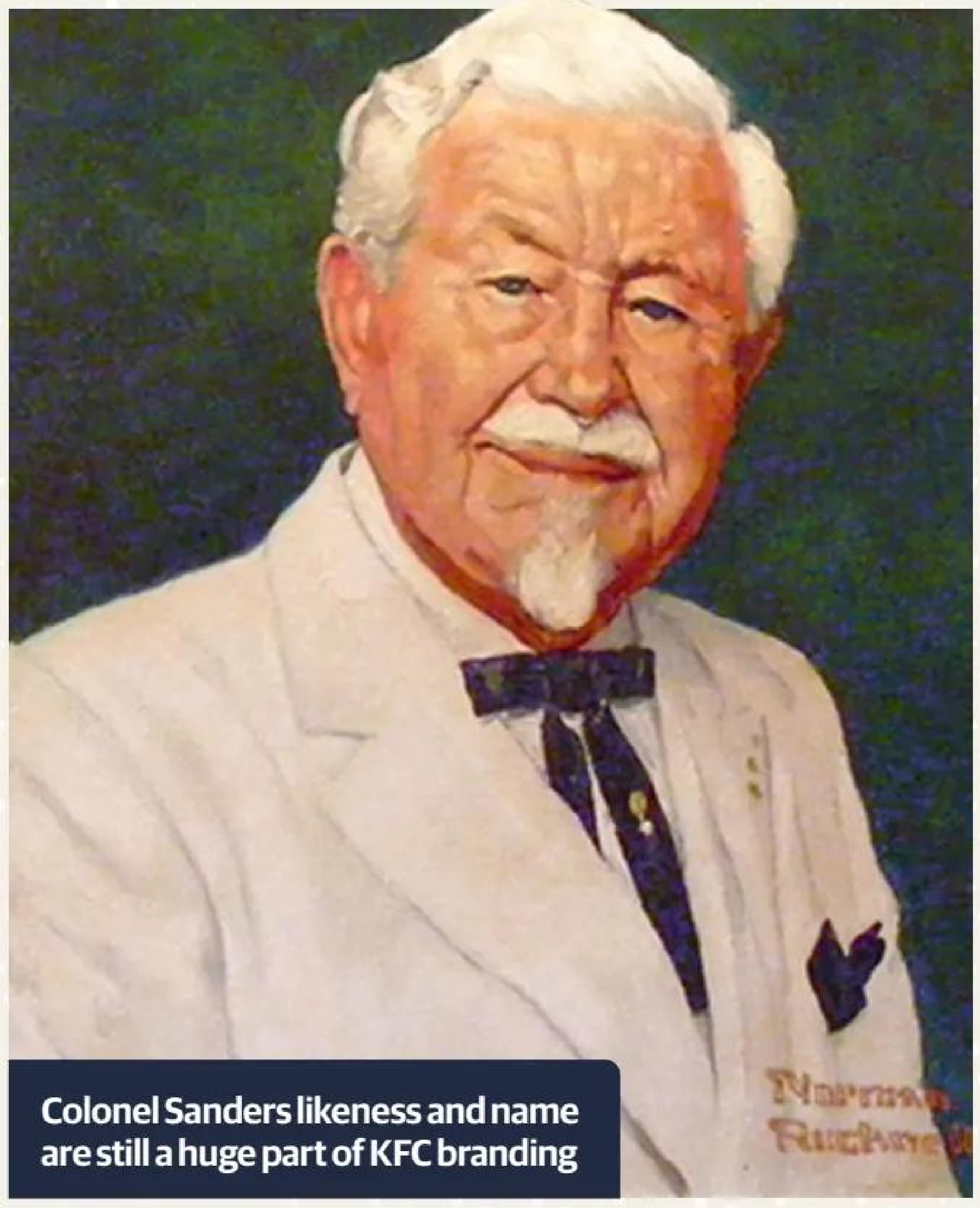
both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and became known as the 'Great Compromiser,' a prominent figure in the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 that addressed the extension of slavery into new territories.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Kentucky was a 'house divided,' as thousands of troops were raise for both the Union and Confederate armies. Kentucky remained in the Union and was described as a "border state," with its largest battle fought at Perryville in 1862. Ironically, both US President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate President Jefferson Davis were born in Kentucky within 100 miles of one another.

After the war, the coal mining industry gained prominence in Kentucky, providing an abundant source of fuel for a growing industrial base, while deposits of oil and natural gas were discovered. Tobacco farmers flourished, and the production of bourbon became a signature endeavour by the turn of the 20th century. The state's reputation for horse breeding and racing was enhanced as well. The prominence of agriculture eventually waned, taking its place among mining, manufacturing, trade, and tourism as economic pillars.

Since the Great Depression, the US government's Tennessee Valley Authority has influenced economic growth, particularly with flood control in the western part of Kentucky, while diversification has brought the automobile industry to the state in transition from dependence on traditional resources.

One of the state's best-known businessmen, Colonel Harland Sanders, founded the world famous Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise (better known as KFC) in Corbin in the 1930s.



Colonel Sanders likeness and name are still a huge part of KFC branding

Metropolitan Louisville, on the banks of the Ohio, is by far the largest population centre in Kentucky with nearly 1.3 million people, while Lexington, home of the University of Kentucky and its legendary Wildcats college basketball program, ranks second with about 300,000 inhabitants. Famous Kentuckians include President Lincoln, boxing great Muhammad Ali, country music legend Loretta Lynn, and actor Johnny Depp. ★

Maker's Mark Bourbon Distillery in Ke

Workers cutting and preparing tobacco in Kentucky, 1940

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

CITY PARK MUSEUM
CANAL
2024

STATE NO.
18

# LOUISIANA

This diverse melting pot of cultures has seen its fair share of hardships, but its spirit has endured

Words Nikole Robinson

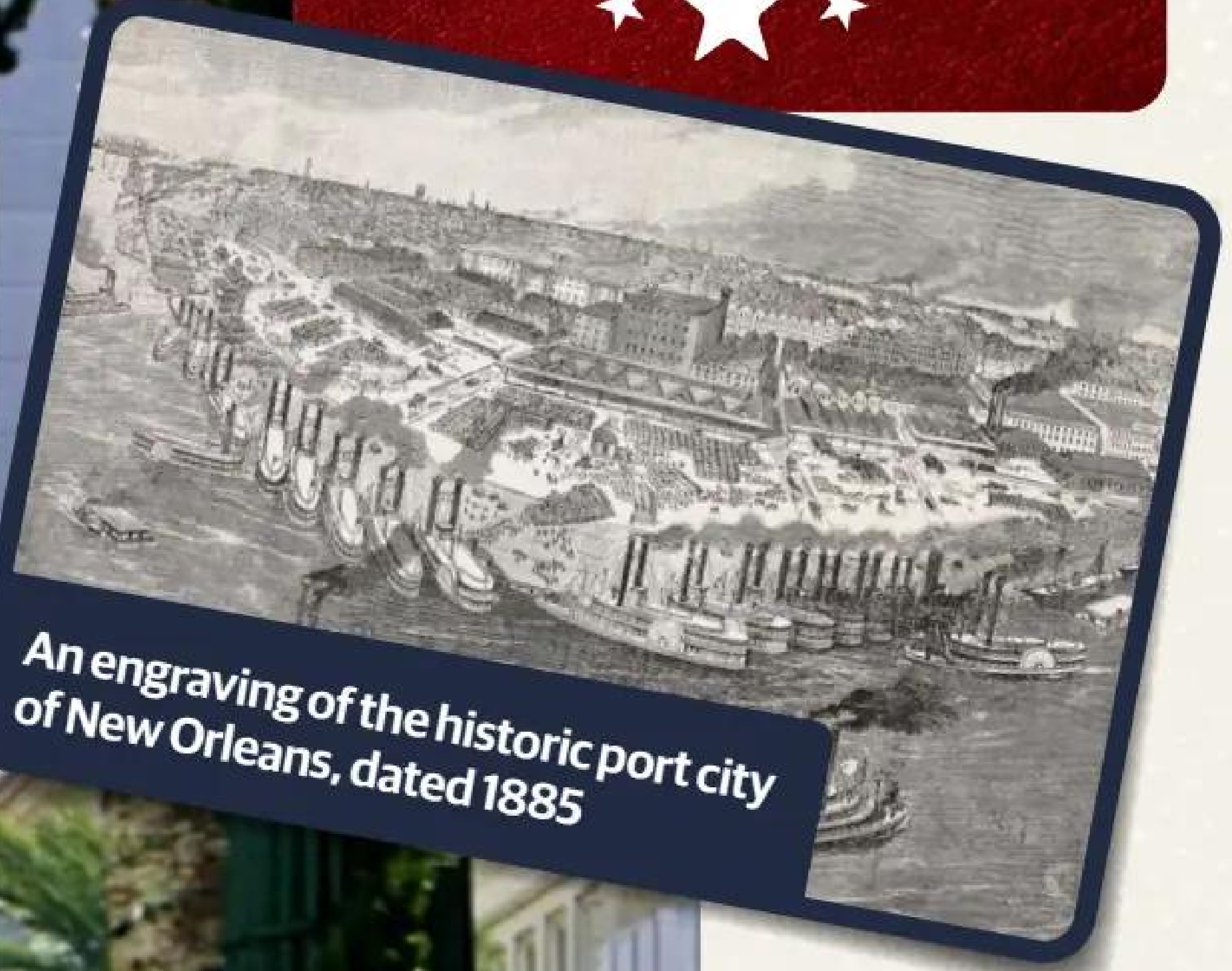
## BIO

**Nickname:** The Pelican State, Bayou State
**Anthem:** 'You Are My Sunshine'
**Admitted to the Union:** 30 April 1812
**Capital:** Baton Rouge
**Population:** 4,597,740
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: New Orleans Saints
NBA: New Orleans Pelicans

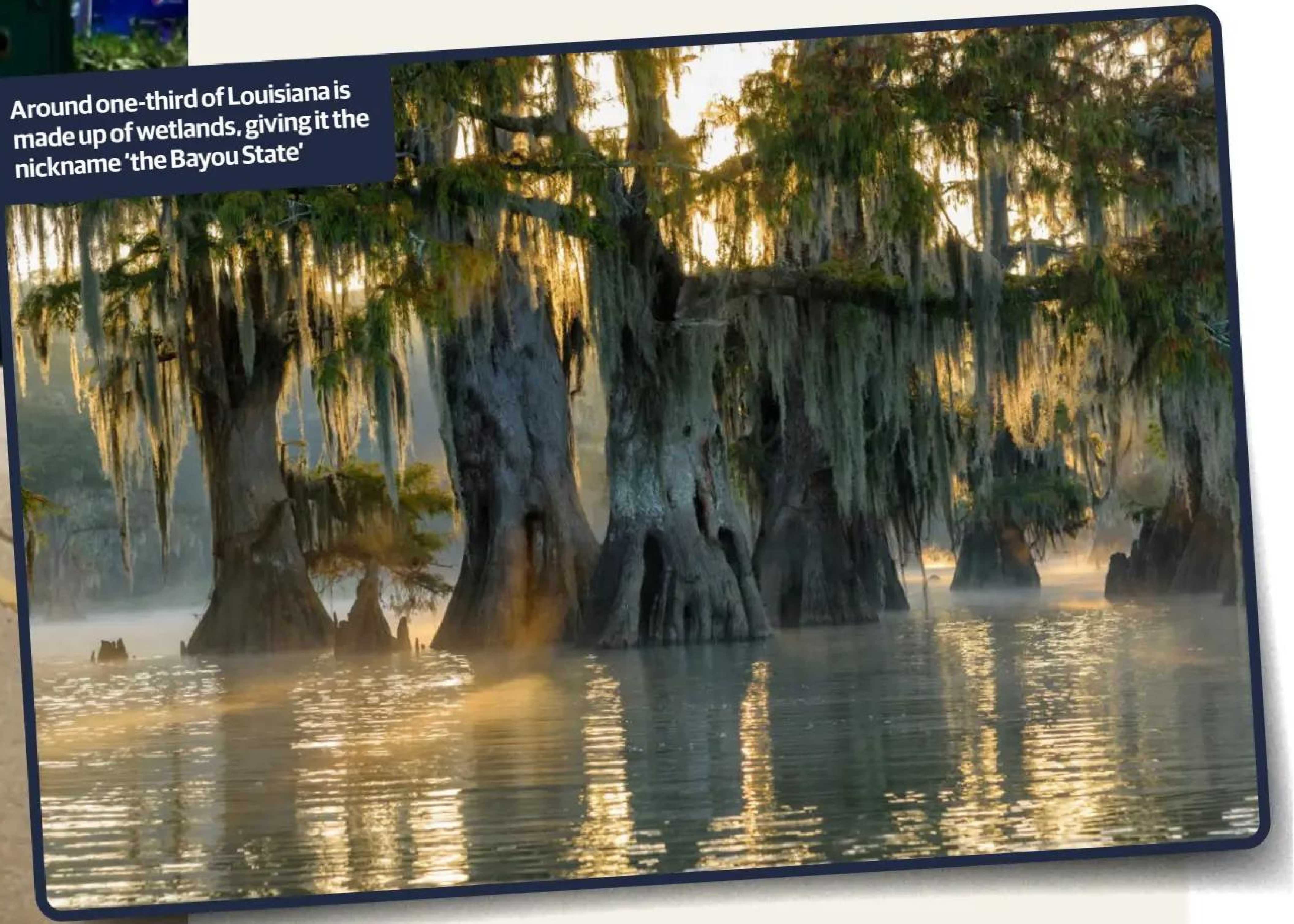
**In what would become the biggest land acquisition in history, the US – a nation still in its infancy – almost doubled in size with the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803.** President Thomas Jefferson originally sent envoys to Paris to negotiate the sale of the port city of New Orleans, but Napoleon, looking to fund his wars in Europe, had something bigger in mind. He offered up the entirety of the Louisiana Territory, some 828,000 square miles, for the small price of $15 million. Despite Jefferson's worries that the purchase was unconstitutional, it was an offer he couldn't refuse, and within a year the expansive territory officially came under ownership of the US.

With so much new land, the problem became how to govern it. In 1804, the Orleans Territory was carved from the southernmost region, and William Claiborne was appointed governor. The territory's French-speaking Creoles, who predominantly followed Catholic traditions, and the existing civil law system, clashed with the US government's plans for Americanisation, despite an influx of white American settlers flocking to the area from the east. Tensions were deepened by mass migrations of Saint-Domingue Creoles after the Haitian Revolution, many of whom settled in New Orleans, and a further population boom in 1809 from Creoles who had previously fled to Cuba. While there was a cultural divide, efforts were made to respect the heritage of its residents, creating a distinctive region rich in French, Spanish, African and Native American influences.

In 1812, the Orleans Territory became the state of Louisiana, the 18th state admitted into the Union. It gained land to the east from the former Republic of West Florida, which had been annexed by the US in 1810 after American settlers had opposed Spanish rule and fought for independence. Both French and English-speaking Louisianians began to farm the fertile land of the Mississippi River Delta, with cotton



An engraving of the historic port city of New Orleans, dated 1885



Around one-third of Louisiana is made up of wetlands, giving it the nickname 'the Bayou State'

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

and sugarcane becoming the most profitable crops of the newfound state's growing economy. These industries relied heavily on slave labour, and New Orleans became one of the largest slave markets in the nation. Due to its access to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico, the multicultural city was fast becoming a bustling port for both domestic and international trade, and Louisiana developed into one of the wealthiest Southern states.

With an economy reliant on plantation agriculture and enslavement, Louisiana seceded from the Union in 1861. However, the state's strategic position made it a critical target for capture, and in April 1862, Union forces took New Orleans in a huge blow to the Confederacy. At the end of the Civil War, Louisiana entered a turbulent period of Reconstruction. Freed African Americans briefly gained political power and rights. However, any progress was met with violent opposition from white supremacist groups, a backlash that would lead to savage attacks on Black and mixed-race residents of Louisiana and the politicians that supported them. The withdrawal of Union troops in 1877 led to the complete collapse of Reconstruction, and the systemic racism that had plagued the state since its inception worsened.

In the late-19th century, a dramatic political shift saw the rise of Jim Crow laws, which enforced racial segregation and disenfranchised citizens of colour. Transport, public restrooms and restaurants, among other establishments, either had separate areas for people of colour – which were often worse in quality – or excluded them completely. Despite this era of repression, African American culture thrived, particularly in New Orleans, where jazz music emerged around the turn of the century. The revolutionary new genre was a powerful form of expression and innovation, born from a blend of African, Caribbean and European musical traditions. Though jazz soon spread across the country, many visitors came to New Orleans to hear the new musical style in its birthplace, increasing tourism.

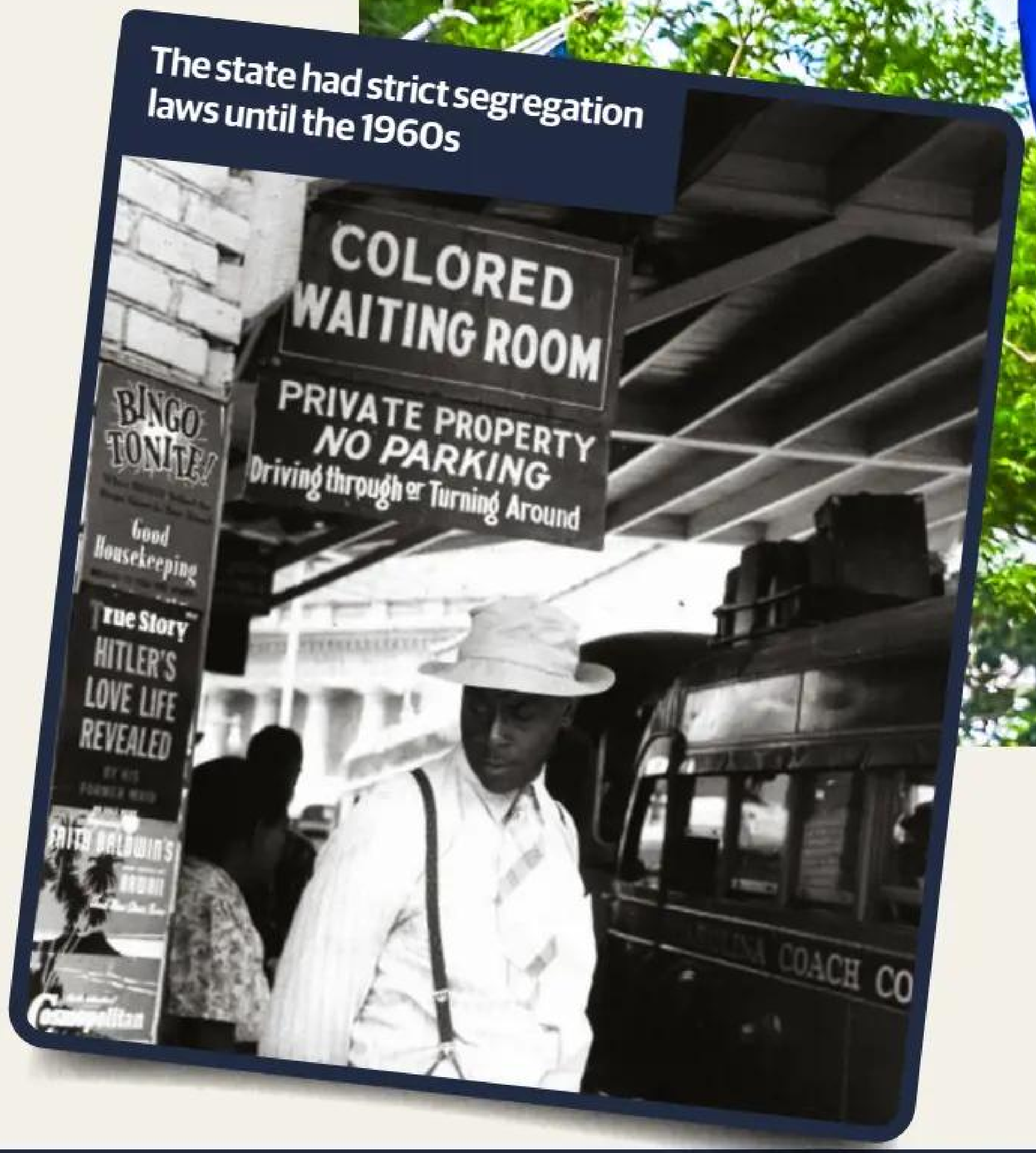
Entering a new century, Louisiana's economy was bolstered by the discovery of oil and natural gas reserves, transforming the state into a major producer of energy. While the Great Depression affected farming and international trade, Huey Long, elected governor in 1928, was a saving grace. His ambitious infrastructure and social programs won him support, with his key objectives including road construction, education reform and wealth redistribution. Fighting economic decline and inequality, Long's huge investment in the state managed to help its citizens through the hardest years of the Great Depression and saw conditions for its residents improve.

In the 1950s, Louisiana became a battleground for the civil rights movement, with peaceful protests and sit-ins held for the abolition of segregation and equal rights for African Americans. A pivotal moment came in 1960, when Ruby Bridges became the first black child integrated into an all-white school in New Orleans. Facing angry mobs opposing her education, Bridges became a symbol of hope and bravery. Desegregation slowly progressed in Louisiana's schools, universities and institutions, and the Jim Crow laws were repealed. However, racial disparities remain in many parts of the state to this day.

With modernisation improving life in the state as the 21st century arrived, disaster struck in August 2005 with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans was hit particularly hard when levee failures led to catastrophic flooding across 80 per cent of the city, and thousands of its citizens were displaced, left without homes. The storm exposed flaws in infrastructure, disaster response and social inequality. Recovery was slow, and the government was highly criticised for its reaction to the tragedy. The years following Hurricane Katrina have seen significant rebuilding efforts, but issues related to climate change, coastal erosion and poverty linger. Despite its hardships, history of racial inequality and clashing of cultures, the influences of the state's diverse population have survived, creating a hotspot celebrated for its unique heritage and multiculturalism. Creole and Cajun food remain incredibly popular with tourists, while steamboat tours and jazz music also bring in revenue from out-of-state visitors. Louisiana is a truly unique state, standing as a symbol of resilience and diversity. ★

> **"Louisiana's economy was bolstered by the discovery of oil"**

The French Quarter of New Orleans, with its ornate iron balconies


The state had strict segregation laws until the 1960s
COLORED
WAITING ROOM
PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO PARKING
Driving through or Turning Around
BINGO TONITE
HITLER'S LOVE LIFE REVEALED

Steamboats have been used to navigate the Mississippi River since the early 1800s

## MARDI GRAS

**The biggest party in Louisiana draws visitors to New Orleans every year**

Mardi Gras is a vibrant, iconic celebration that sees millions of people flock to New Orleans every spring, donned in costumes to await the sight of decorated floats on parade. Mardi Gras translates to 'Fat Tuesday' in French, the day before Ash Wednesday, when people would overindulge in preparation for Lent, and is rooted in French Catholic traditions brought to Louisiana in the 18th century. In the weeks leading up to Mardi Gras, different 'krewes' put on elaborate parade displays and hold invite-only parties and balls. Some of these krewes were founded over 150 years ago and continue to host events today. In 1872, the Rex krewe proclaimed the colours of Mardi Gras: purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power. While Mardi Gras attracts people from all over the globe, Louisiana locals also enjoy the spectacle, which celebrates their history and cultural identity.

The Orpheus Leviathan float from a Mardi Gras parade in 2022

Images : Alamy; Getty

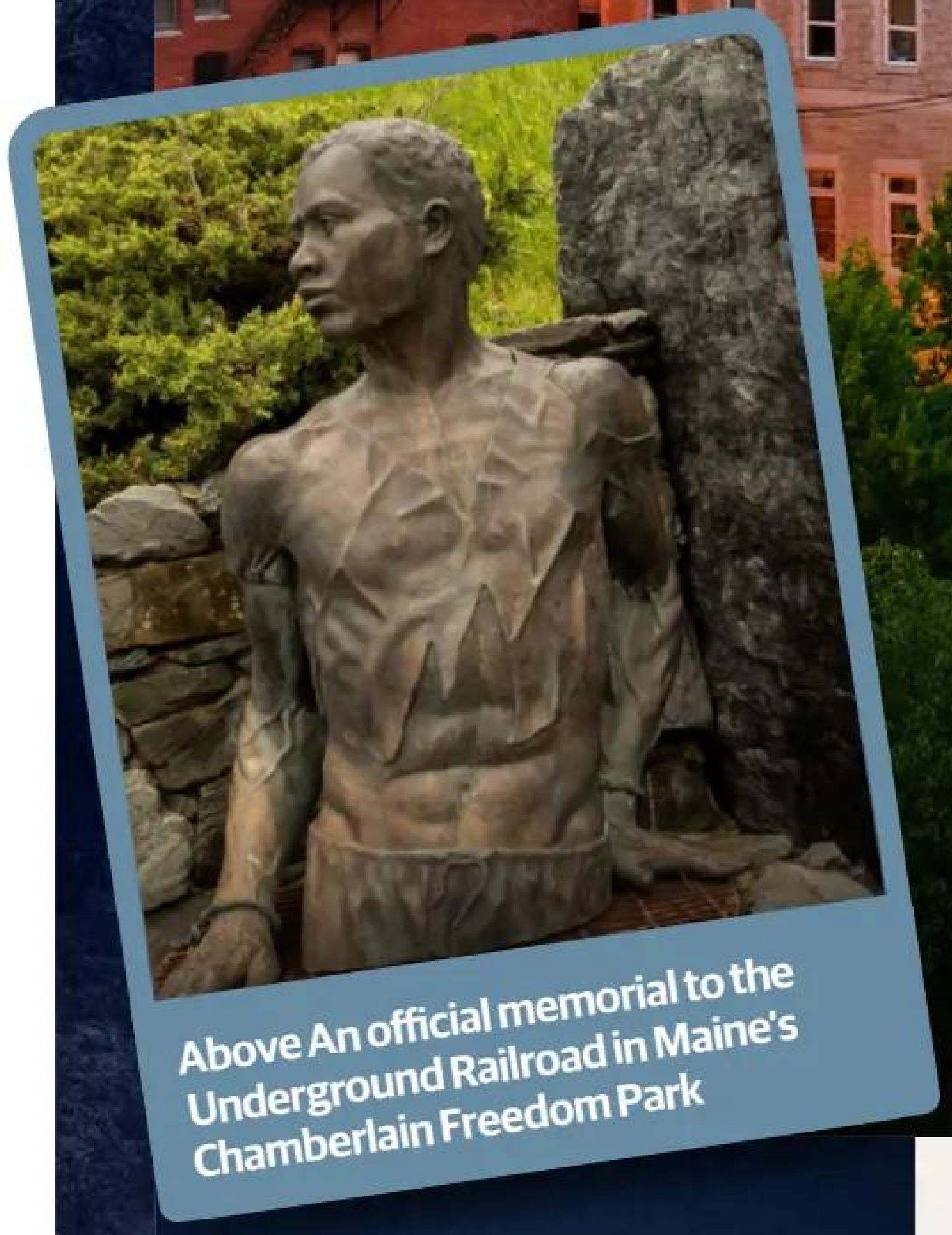
STATE NO.

23

# MAINE

## How lumber, shipbuilding and abolitionism characterised the state's history

**Words Emily Staniforth**



**Above** An official memorial to the Underground Railroad in Maine's Chamberlain Freedom Park

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Pine Tree State
**Anthem:** 'The State of Maine'
**Admitted to the Union:** 15 March 1820
**Capital:** Augusta
**Population:** 1,405,012
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**At the time Maine became the 23rd state admitted into the Union in 1820, its population was primarily an agrarian one.** Farming provided an income for many families in the state, though industrialisation soon transformed the state into an economic powerhouse. Lumbering had begun in Maine during the 17th century and by the 19th century, with logging innovations changing the way the lumber industry operated. Moreover, the city of Bangor had become the largest port in the world for lumber exporting. It is believed that nearly nine billion board feet of lumber were shipped from Bangor between 1832 and 1888.

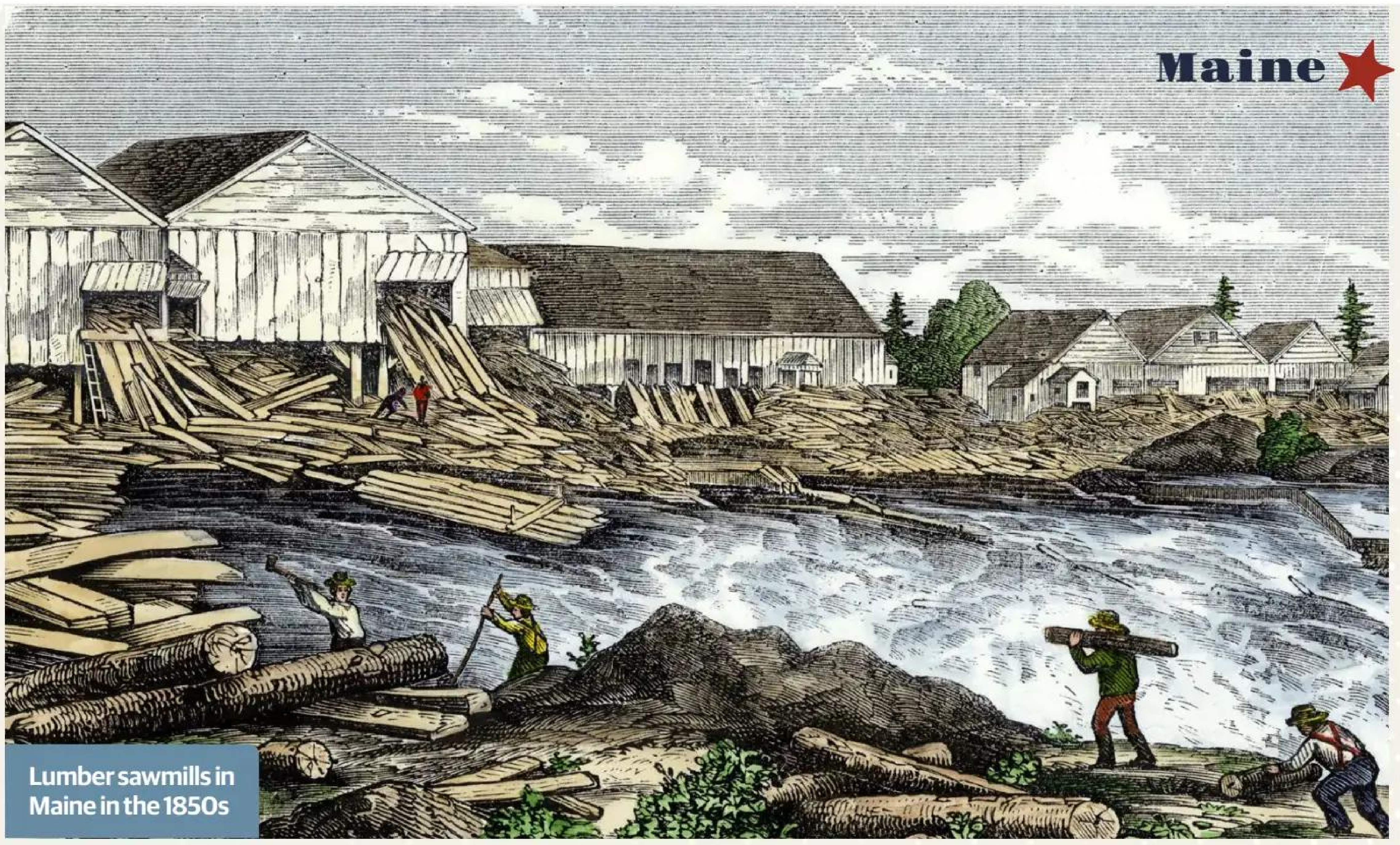
Maine also saw a boom in shipbuilding following its admittance to the Union and by the 1830s the Pine Tree State was building more ships than any other state. At its height, Maine's shipbuilding industry was producing a third of all US ships. During the 19th century, the ships produced in Maine were made from wood, but by the end of the century steel shipbuilding was also thriving in the state. As a result of the large numbers of steel ships being built in Maine, the state became extremely important during the World Wars of the following century with over a thousand naval and army ships built in Maine during World War II.

One of the most prominent historical facts about Maine was that when the state entered the Union as part of the Missouri Compromise, they were admitted as a free state. This status meant that their constitution and laws prohibited slavery. Missouri, on the other hand, was admitted to the Union as a

## MAKING WHOOPIE... PIES

**How this sweet cake became Maine's official state treat**

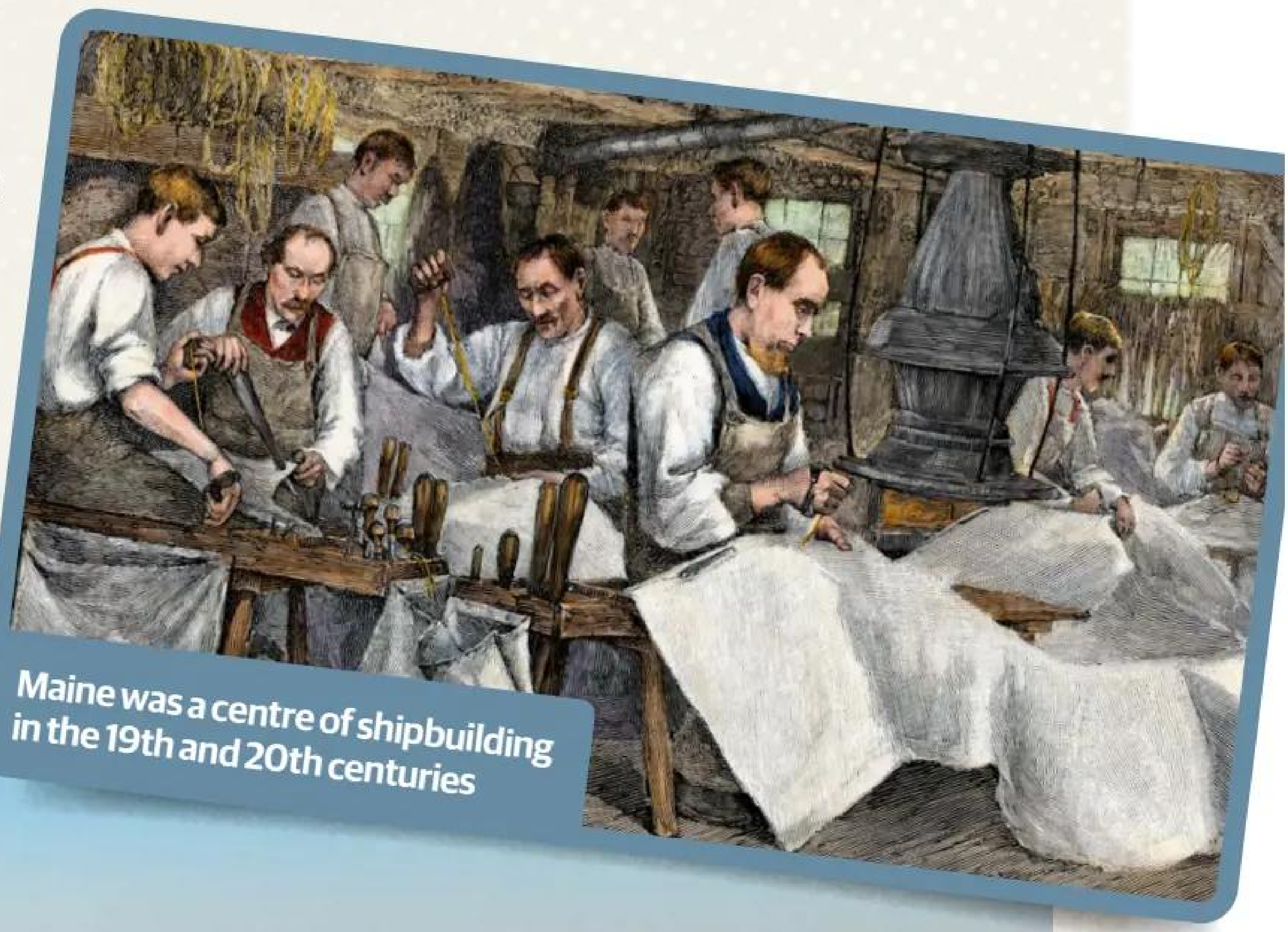
Along with Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, Maine claims to have invented the cocoa delight that is the Whoopie Pie. Two chocolate sponge cakes sandwiched together with a rich creamy filling, the Whoopie Pie was allegedly first created by the wives of Maine farmers in the early 20th century. These women would allegedly make the small sweet treats, for their husbands' to take to work, from leftover cake batter. However, other origin stories for the Whoopie Pie include that they were created by Amish bakers or that they were made as a variation of a British Victoria Sponge. Whatever the truth, Maine designated the Whoopie Pie its official state treat in 2011.



Lumber sawmills in Maine in the 1850s

slave state. This initial stance of Maine had a great influence on its later history with the state being one of the leaders of the abolitionist movement: slavery had been abolished in Maine in 1783, and the Maine Anti-Slavery Society was established in 1833. Though some historians have questioned whether ordinary Mainers were as passionate about abolitionism as is often suggested, it is known that a number of communities in the state aided in the operation of the Underground Railroad.

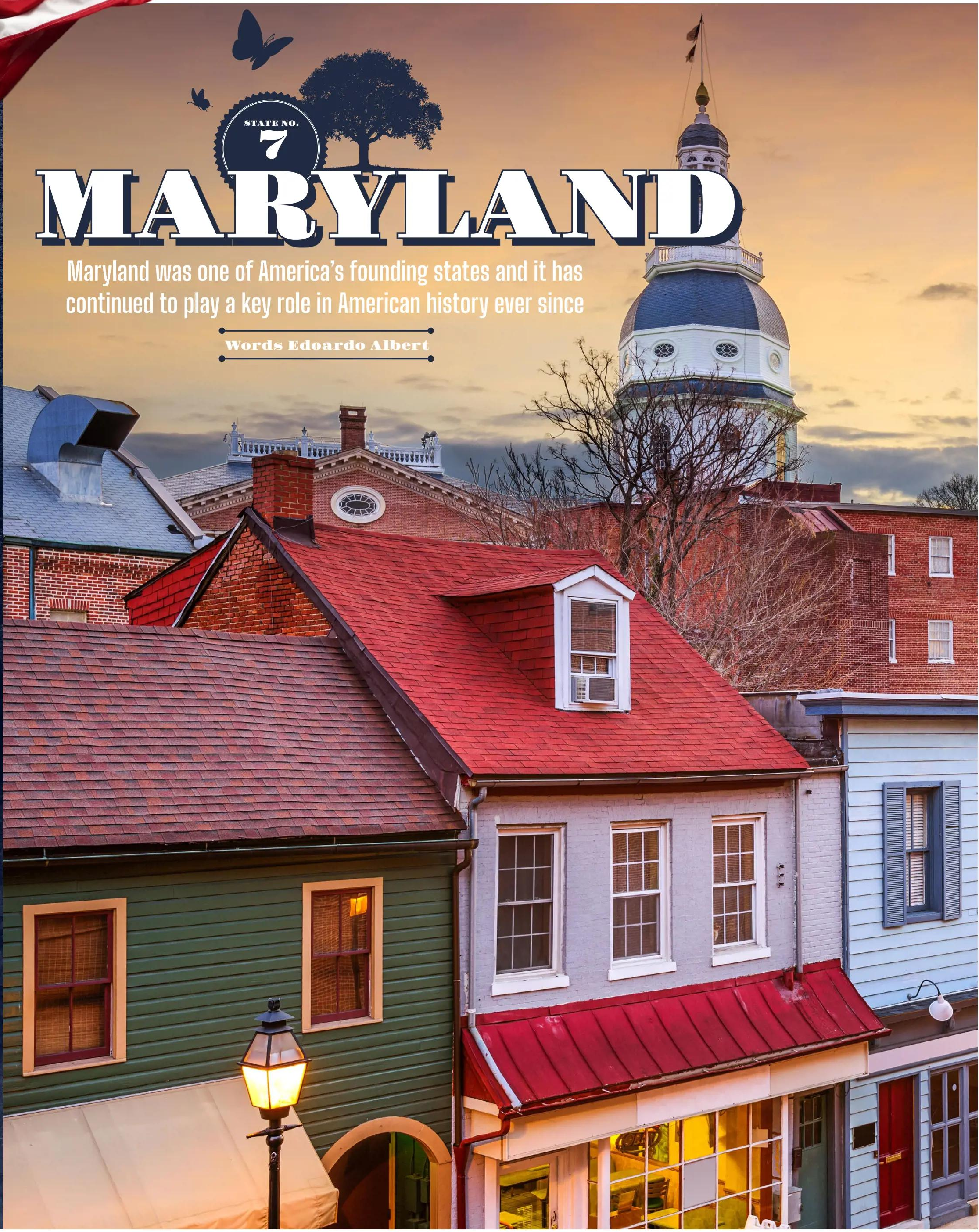
Another significant aspect of Maine's history includes the fact that it was the first 'dry' state after passing the Maine Law of 1851 which banned the production and sale of liquor. Prohibition in the state was only lifted in the national repeal of 1933. Maine is also known as the home state of horror writer Stephen King and 19th century Vice President Hannibal Hamlin.★



Maine was a centre of shipbuilding in the 19th and 20th centuries

The Portland Head Light, Maine's oldest lighthouse

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy



STATE NO.
7

# MARYLAND

Maryland was one of America's founding states and it has continued to play a key role in American history ever since

Words Edoardo Albert

Downtown Annapolis has some of the best preserved colonial era architecture in America

## BIO

**Nickname:**
Old Line State and Free State
**Anthem:** 'Maryland, My Maryland' was the state anthem until 2021.
**Admitted to the Union:**
28 April 1788
**Capital:** Annapolis
**Population:** 6,263,220
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Baltimore Ravens, Washington Commanders
MLB: Baltimore Orioles

**Maryland is border country.** But it's not a border with another country, such as the states that border Mexico and Canada. Nor is it a border state with the Old West, one of those states that turned its gaze to the expanding American frontier in the 19th century. No, Maryland is the border within America itself, the fault line between North and South that was exposed during the titanic struggle of the Civil War.

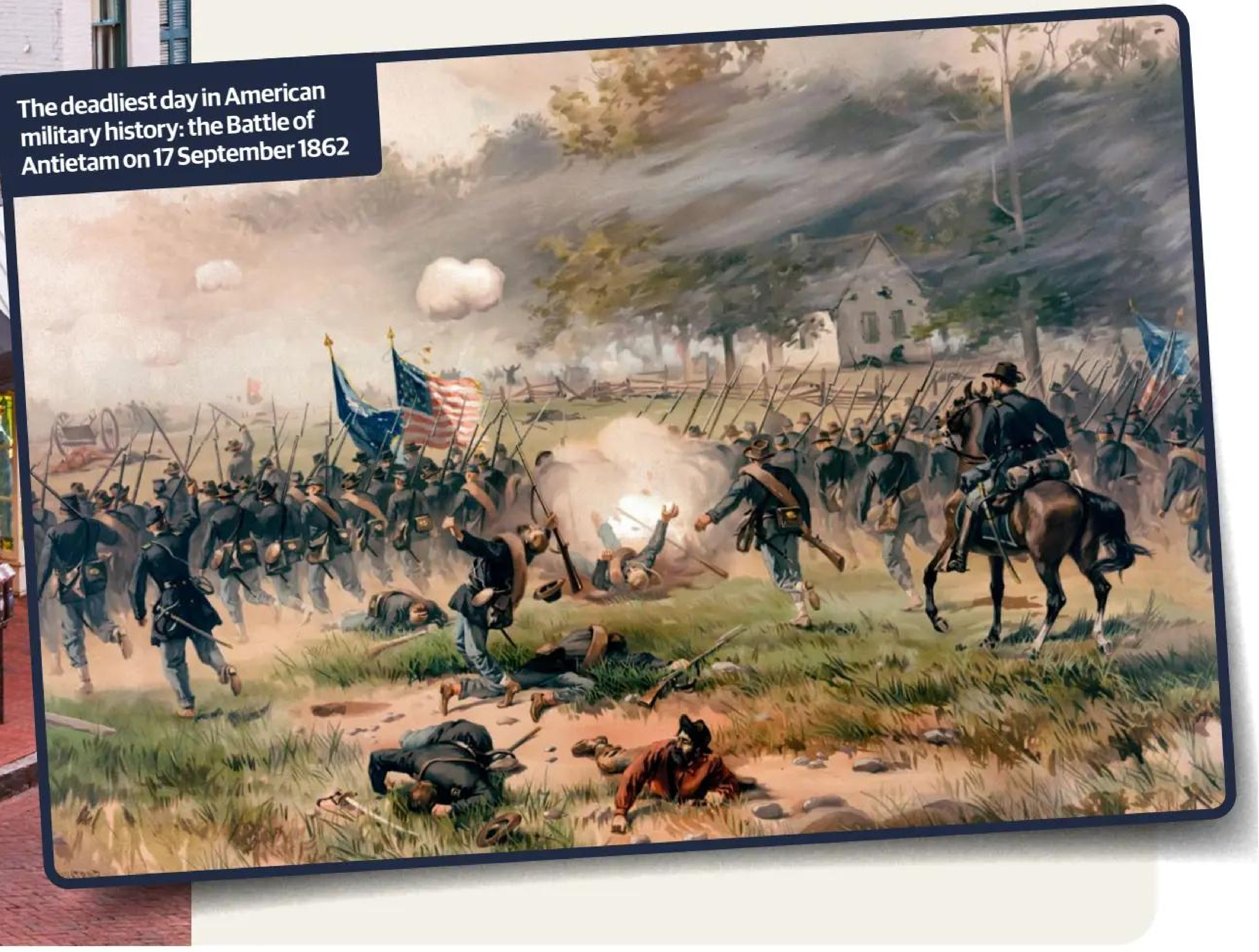
Indeed, the Mason-Dixon Line, which delineates Maryland's northern border with Pennsylvania, was generally taken to mark the dividing line between the North and the South. Maryland itself lay south of this line but the state did not join the Confederacy during the Civil War, in part because President Abraham Lincoln placed Maryland under martial law to prevent it from seceding. Loyalties within the state were deeply divided, with many families split as to which side to support.

For a state that had been founded as a haven of religious freedom, this was a poor pass for Maryland to find itself in. As the name might suggest, Maryland was founded in part as a refuge for English Catholics from the persecution they faced at home and, despite some ups and downs with Puritans along the way, it was the first state to grant religious liberty to all Christians in 1649 (although the Christians had to be Trinitarian to count).

During the American War of Independence, Maryland was one of the thirteen colonies that rebelled against British rule. Maryland was the 13th and last state to ratify the Articles of Confederation of the new United States of America but the seventh to be admitted to the Union on 28 April 1788.

With the new country needing a new capital, Maryland donated land on the north bank of the Potomac River as the home for the new District of Columbia, the headquarters of the federal

Blue crabs thrive in the brackish waters of Chesapeake Bay and are a regional delicacy



The deadliest day in American military history: the Battle of Antietam on 17 September 1862

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

government. George Washington himself chose its location and the new capital was duly named after the nation's founding father.

But the capital was not to be Maryland's only gift to the new nation: it also gave America its national anthem. During the War of 1812 between America and Britain, British naval frigates bombarded Fort McHenry which guarded the entrance to Baltimore's harbour. The fort was flying a large American flag and when lawyer Francis Scott Key saw the pierced flag still flying after the British withdrew, he wrote the words to what would become 'The Star-Spangled Banner', America's national anthem.

Maryland was a slave state but its proximity to free states and history of freedom meant that the situation there was more mixed than in other Southern states; at the start of the Civil War just under half of the Black population of the state was free. During the Civil War, Maryland remained part of the Union with its position on the border between North and South making it one of the key battlefields of the conflict: the Battle of Antietam on 17 September 1862 took place near Sharpsburg. The battle itself was the bloodiest in American history, with 22,727 casualties. Although the battle was inconclusive, by stopping the Confederate drive north it became a turning point in the war.

Because Maryland had not been a part of the Confederacy, it did not endure the same degree of imposed reconstruction that the Northern states forced on the Southern states. However, the Democratic party, committed to racial segregation, quickly regained power in the state and ensured that Jim Crow laws prevented the Black communities from exercising their rights.

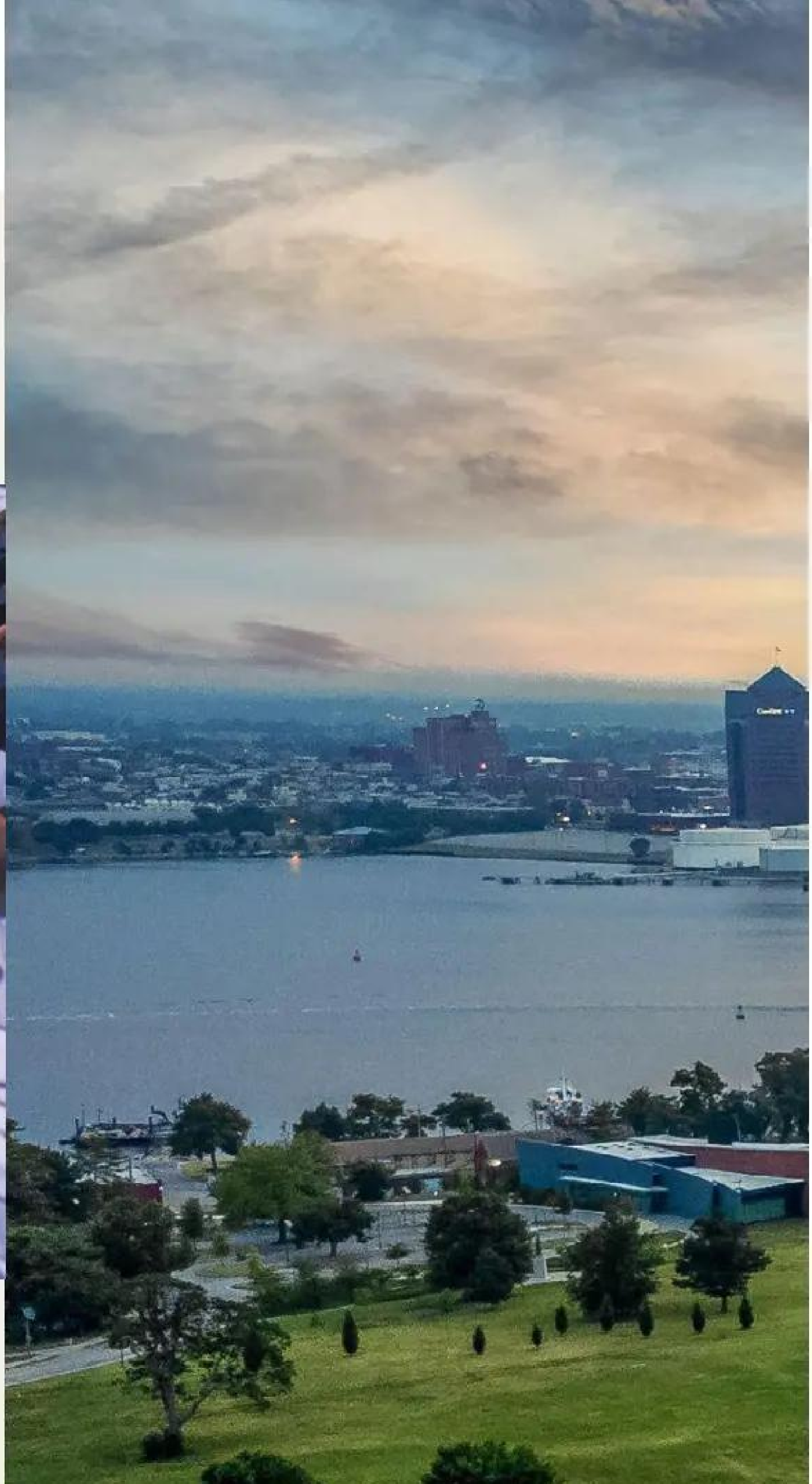
With Baltimore as a major port and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad facilitating imports and exports, the state became a major driver of American economic growth in the second half of the 19th century and into the 20th century. The port itself was an entry point for European immigration, with many of those immigrants staying in Baltimore and establishing large Italian, German, Irish and Jewish communities in the city.

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit Baltimore hard but World War II revitalised the state's economy, bringing employment in the wake of expanded military bases and booming shipyards and steel mills. Maryland was one of the engines of the American manufacturing powerhouse that defeated the Axis powers and the state emerged from the war and entered into a long period of economic expansion. In particular, the rail and interstate connections between Baltimore and Washington DC enabled a huge expansion in suburban housing, with many of the people moving into these houses working for the federal government and its ancillary agencies. The I-95 Corridor has become one of the wealthiest areas in the United States, with Columbia, a planned community in Howard County, often ranked among the best places to live in America.

Maryland has successfully diversified from its early industrial roots, becoming a thriving state with a new focus on high-technology, cyber security and biotechnology. While challenges remain, particularly with respect to ensuring the continued health of Chesapeake Bay, the state's wealth and its proximity to the key decision makers in America ensure that it will continue to play a disproportionately large role in American history into the future. ★

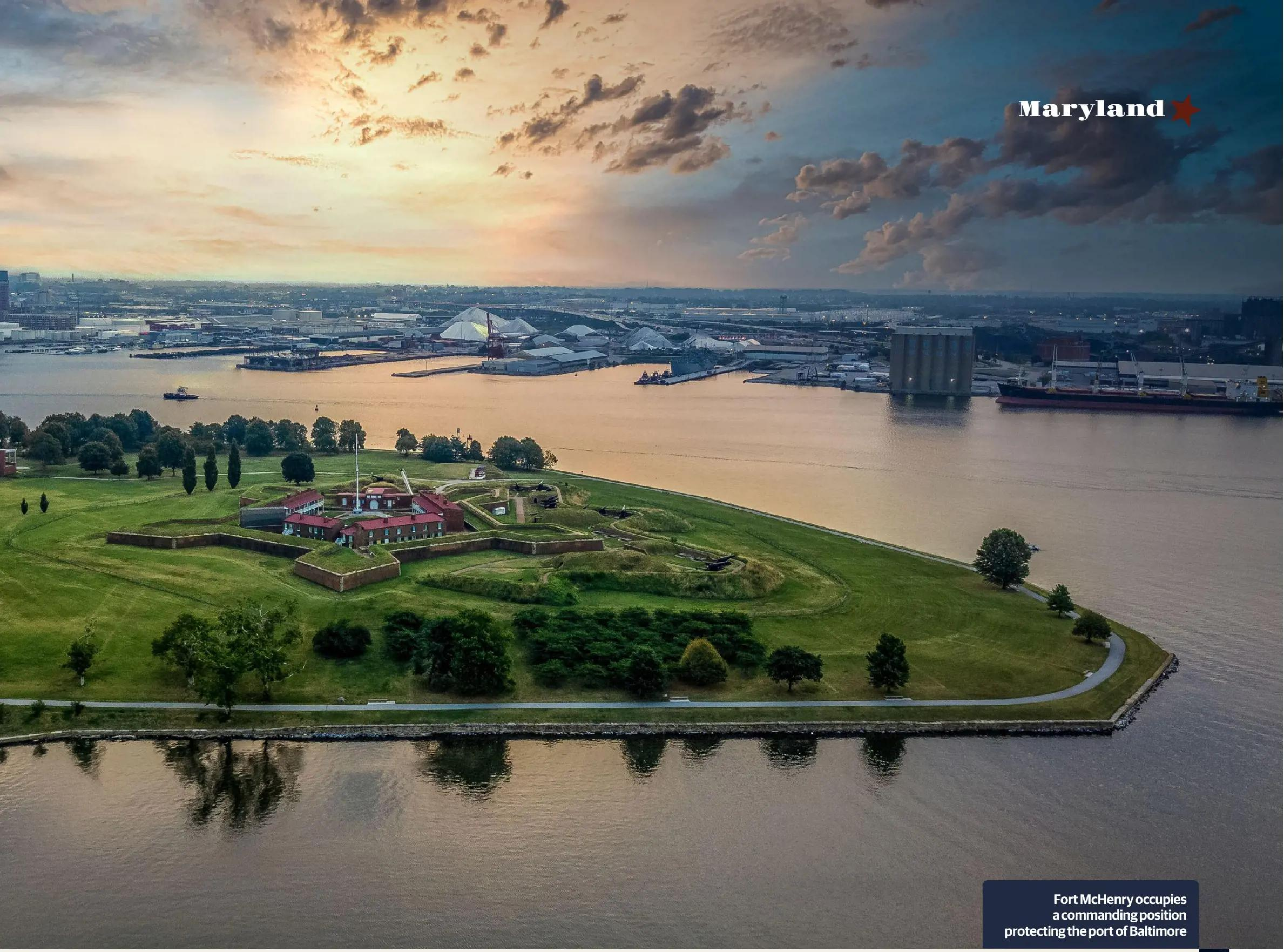
**"The Great Depression of the 1930s hit Baltimore hard"**

The United States Naval Academy in Annapolis trains the new generation of officers for the US Navy



The original cannon-pierced flag that inspired the words for 'The Star-Spangled Banner'

A view of the Harry Nice Bridge on the Potomac River

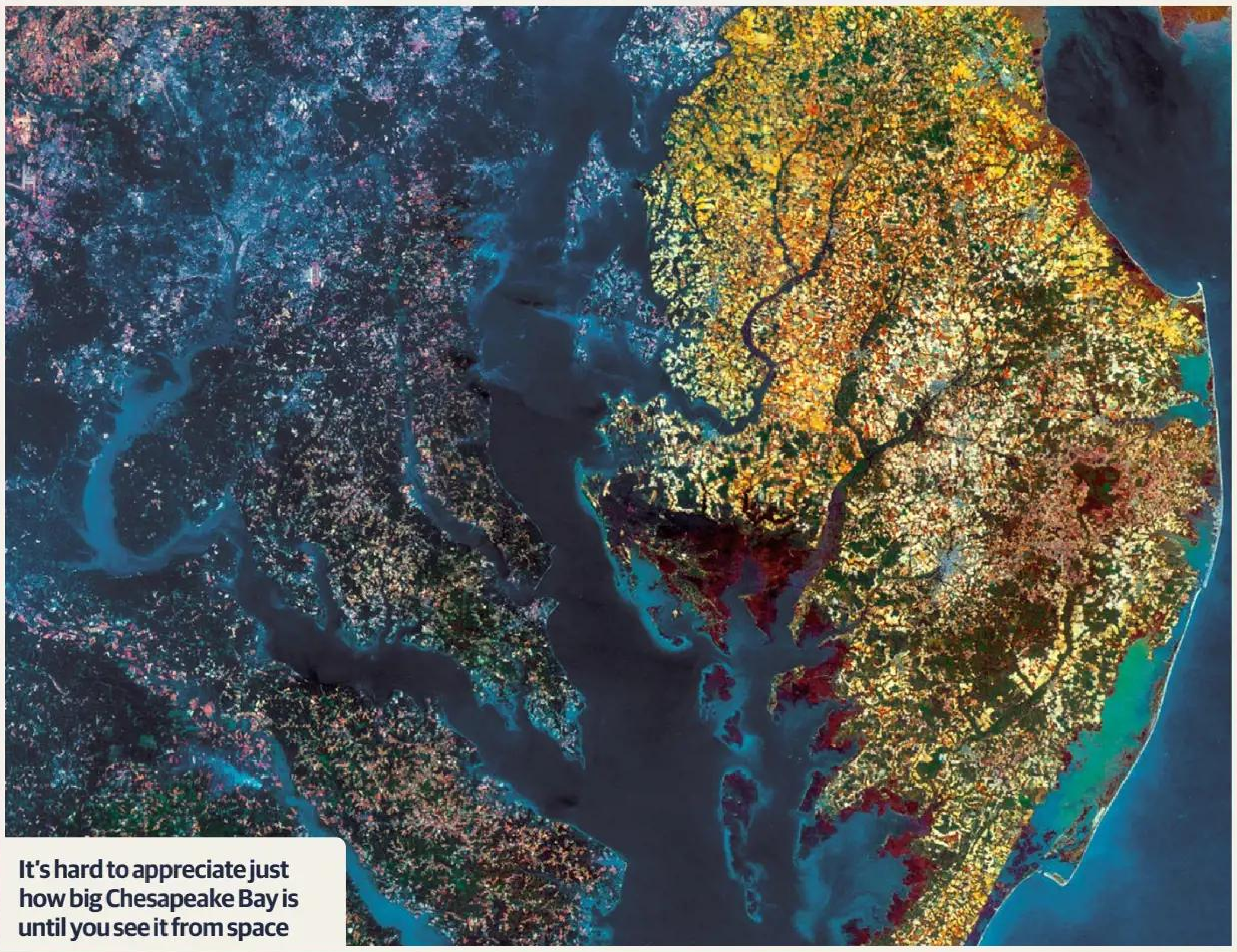


Fort McHenry occupies a commanding position protecting the port of Baltimore

## CHESAPEAKE BAY

### The great bay that opens Maryland to the world

Chesapeake Bay is Maryland's opening to the world's oceans and the channel that the world's trade took to enter America. The largest estuary in the US, the bay receives 150 rivers and streams into its 64,299 square miles (166,534 km²), including the Potomac and York rivers. The bounty provided by this diverse environment drove a great deal of the early settlement in the region, with whole communities based upon fishing and the famous Chesapeake oysters and blue crabs. Although pollution damaged the bay's ecosystem in the 20th century, multi-agency restoration work is improving the conditions in the bay, allowing iconic species such as the bay's oysters to start to recover. Chesapeake Bay is a place of natural beauty and one of America's great centres for water sports, nature watching and outdoor recreation, drawing millions of visitors each year.



It's hard to appreciate just how big Chesapeake Bay is until you see it from space

Images: Alamy; Getty

STATE NO. 6

# MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts, the Bay State, has been a leader in presidential politics, higher education, and professional sports

***Words Marc DeSantis***

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the sixth state admitted into the United States, lies on the northeastern shores of the region known as New England. Its roots go far back, to the early decades of the 17th century, when the ship Mayflower landed there in 1620, bearing the Pilgrims who sought to start new lives in the New World.**

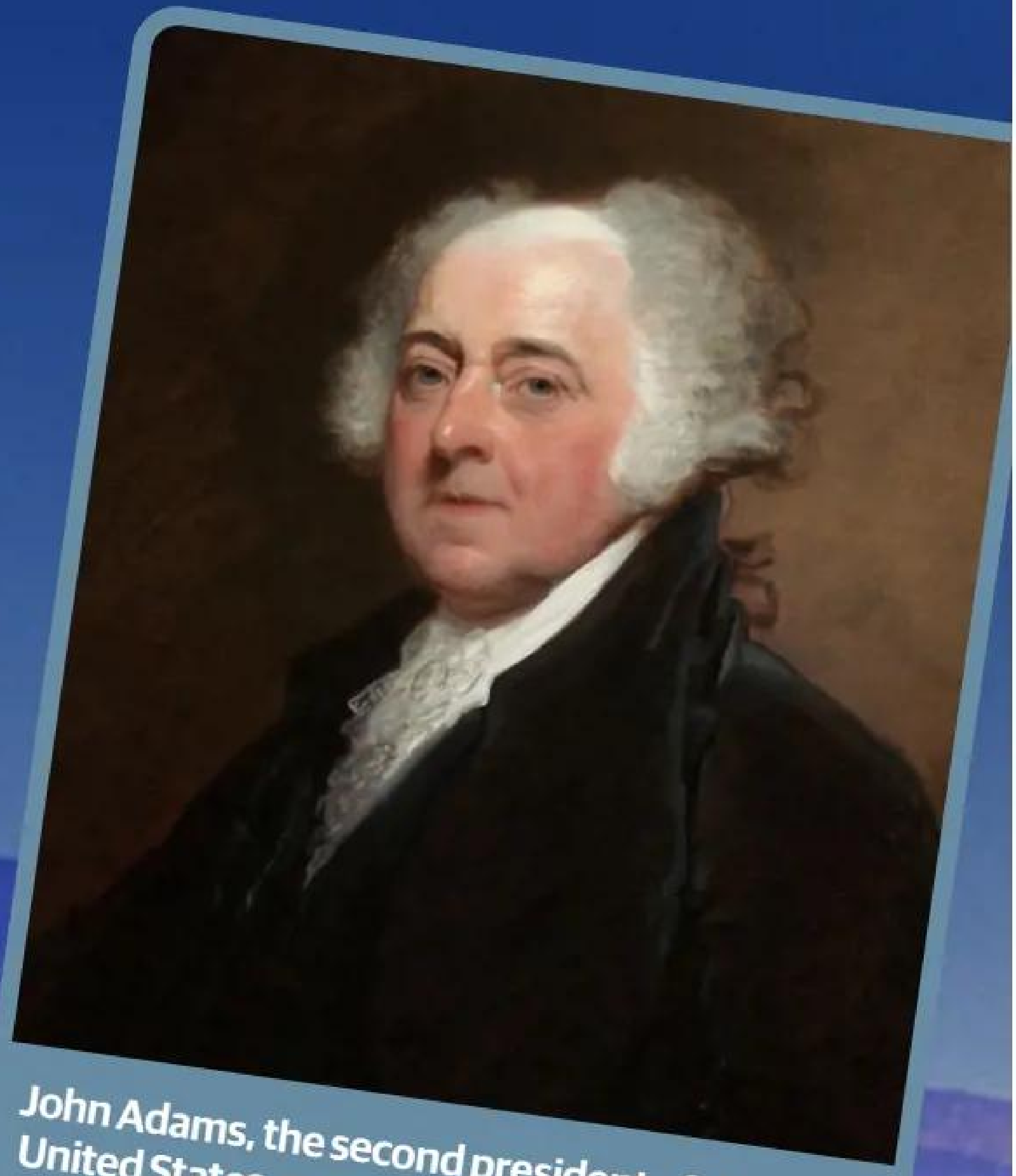
No fewer than five presidents of the United States have derived from Massachusetts to some degree. These have been John Adams, the second president, who held office from 1797-1801. John Quincy Adams, his son, became the nation's sixth. Calvin Coolidge presided from 1923 to 1929. In the modern era, John F. Kennedy held the nation's highest office from 1961-1963. Most recently, George H.W. Bush (born in the state) was president from 1989-1993.

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Bay State
**Anthem:** 'All Hail to Massachusetts'
**Admitted to the Union:** 6 February 1788
**Capital:** Boston
**Population:** 7,136,171
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: New England Patriots
NBA: Boston Celtics
MLB: Boston Red Sox
NHL: Boston Bruins

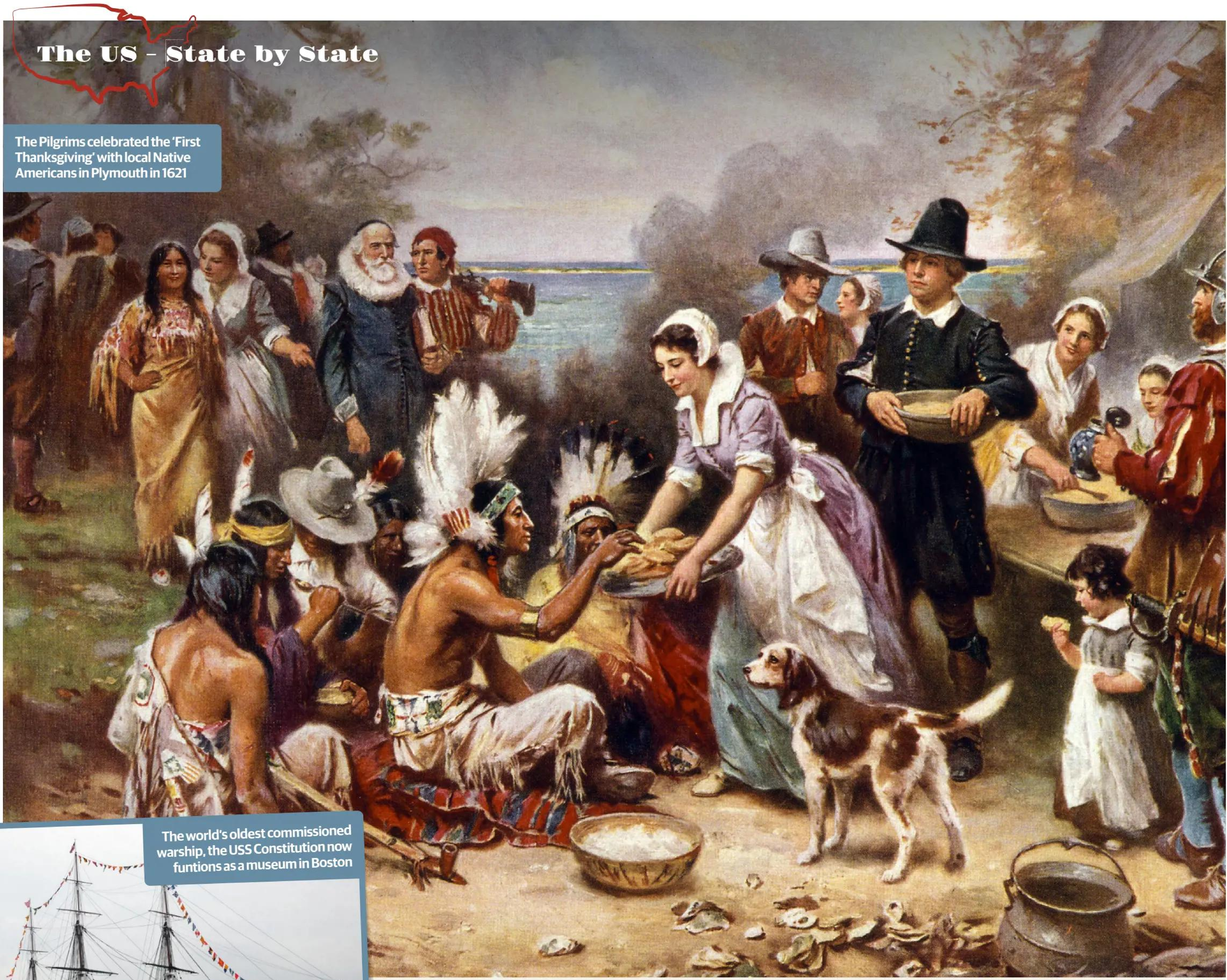
## The Adamses of Massachusetts

John Adams (1735-1826) and his son John Quincy Adams were the first father and son pair to serve as presidents of the United States. Born in Braintree, Massachusetts in 1735, John Adams's smarts enabled him to obtain a spot at Harvard College. He became a lawyer



John Adams, the second president of the United States, succeeded George Washington

Images on spread: Getty, Alamy, Adobe Stock



The Pilgrims celebrated the 'First Thanksgiving' with local Native Americans in Plymouth in 1621

The world's oldest commissioned warship, the USS Constitution now funtions as a museum in Boston

after graduating, amidst a backdrop of growing antagonism between the Thirteen Colonies in America and Great Britain.

Events soon spiralled out of control, and when the American War of Independence began, Adams was a proponent of separation from Britain. Afterward, with the war won, Adams became the nation's first vice president, serving alongside George Washington. He then succeeded Washington to the presidency as the candidate of the Federalist Party, serving from 1797 to 1801. However, in the election of 1800, he failed to win his bid for a second term in office. Despite this loss, Adams is still remembered today as one of America's greatest Founding Fathers.

John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) served as the sixth president of the US. He also served in the US Congress as both a senator and a congressman. He was a prominent diplomat, and helped to negotiate the Treaty of Ghent that ended the War of 1812 between the US and Great Britain. Under President James Monroe, he was Secretary of State. He then won the presidential election of 1824, and served one term, which began in 1825 and ended in 1829.

> **"All states prioritise education, but Massachusetts was out front when it came to educating youth. It was the first to mandate that all children go to public school."**

## The Schoolhouse of America

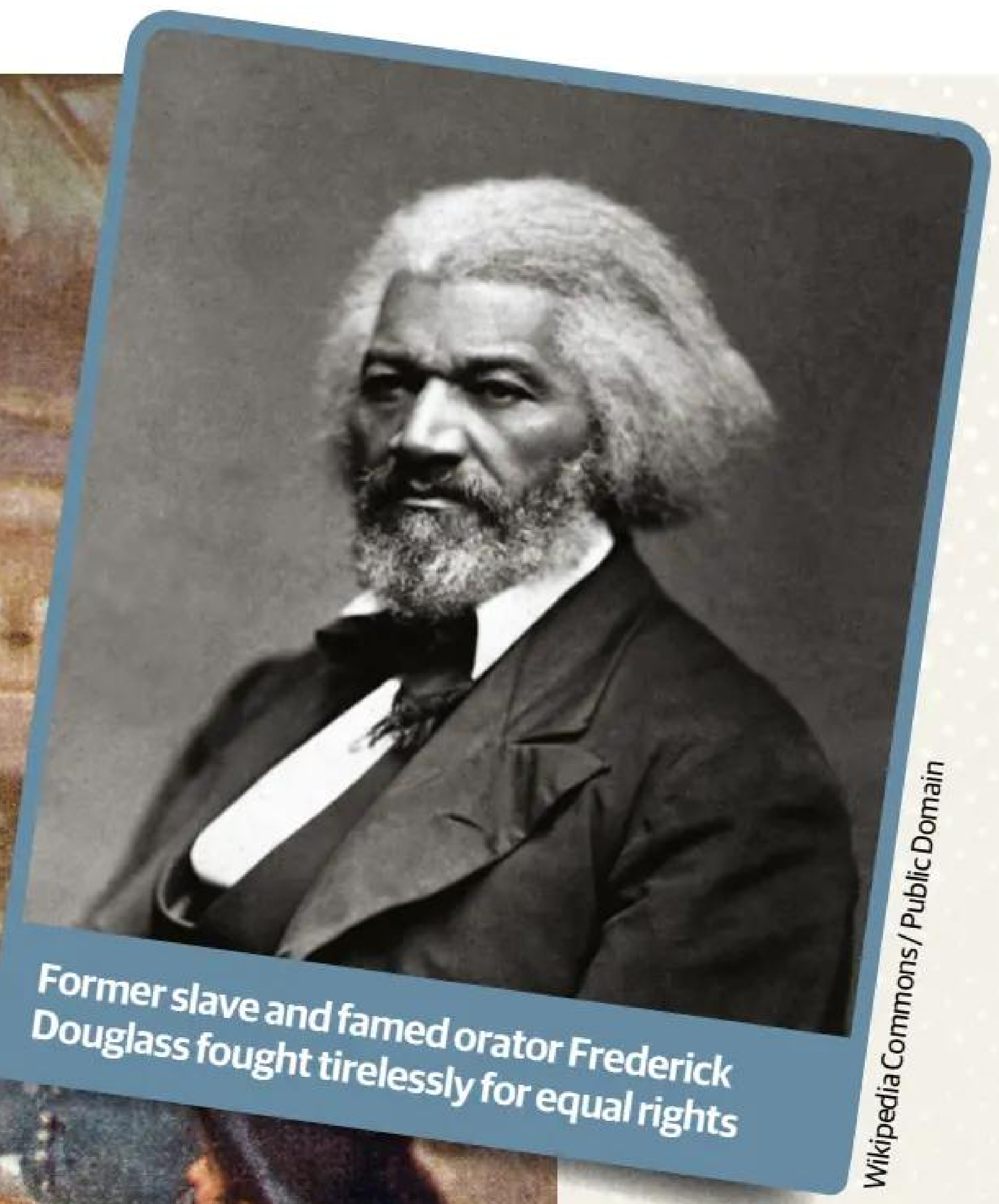
All American states prioritise education, but Massachusetts was out front when it came to educating youth. It was the first to mandate that all children go to public school. It has also been a leader of American higher education, with a remarkable number of top tier institutions in the state.

These include, in or around Boston: Harvard University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); Boston College; and Boston University. Elsewhere in the state lie Amherst College; the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; and the women's colleges of Smith and Wellesley.

Harvard has long been considered one of the greatest universities in the world. Founded in 1636 as Harvard College, a school to train Puritan ministers, Harvard is the oldest and wealthiest university in the United States.

Harvard has changed immensely since its founding. It now hosts a diverse student body of many different races, ethnicities, backgrounds, and

Images ; Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock



Former slave and famed orator Frederick Douglass fought tirelessly for equal rights

Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

countries of origin. It transformed itself in the early and middle decades of the 20th century from a university dominated by elites of Boston to a more meritocratic school in which students were picked for their academic abilities instead of their social origins.

Harvard's professional schools deserve special mention. Harvard Law School is renowned, and is a stepping stone to positions on America's highest courts, including the US Supreme Court, and top jobs in government and private law firms. Harvard Business School has had a massive impact on the nation's commercial landscape. Harvard Medical School has long been at the leading edge of medicine. It has close connections to numerous research institutions and hospitals. Yet another influential professional school is the Kennedy School of Government. Its goal is to ready its students for careers in the public sector.

## Abolitionist Massachusetts

Massachusetts was a leader in the abolition movement. Slaveholding was outlawed in the Commonwealth in 1783. It was followed by other states that similarly abolished the institution. However, there remained numerous other states, in the South, that kept slavery in force. The abolition movement was strong in Massachusetts. A particularly vocal critic of slavery, William Lloyd Garrison, founded his newspaper, *The Liberator*, in 1831, and published it in Boston.

One of America's greatest anti-slavery orators of all was Frederick Douglass. A former slave who had escaped bondage in Maryland in 1838, he went north and settled in New Bedford to start a family (his former home is a National Historic Landmark). He gave speeches against slavery, sharing his own experiences and publishing an autobiography, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave,* in 1845.

The impasse over slavery would not be resolved peacefully. The Civil War, fought between 1861 and 1865, saw numerous Massachusetts units take part in the fight to preserve the Union. One such formation

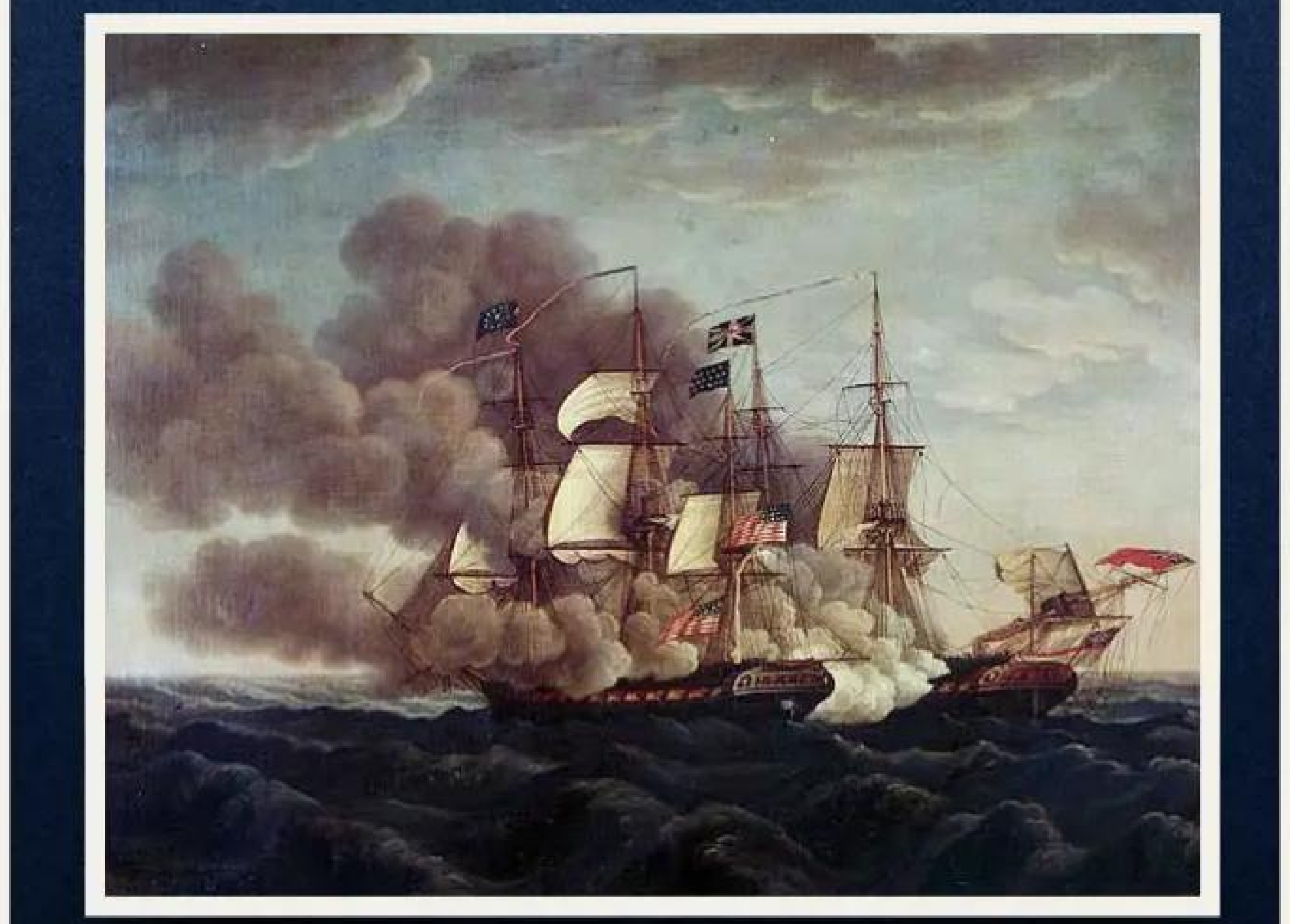
### 'OLD IRONSIDES'

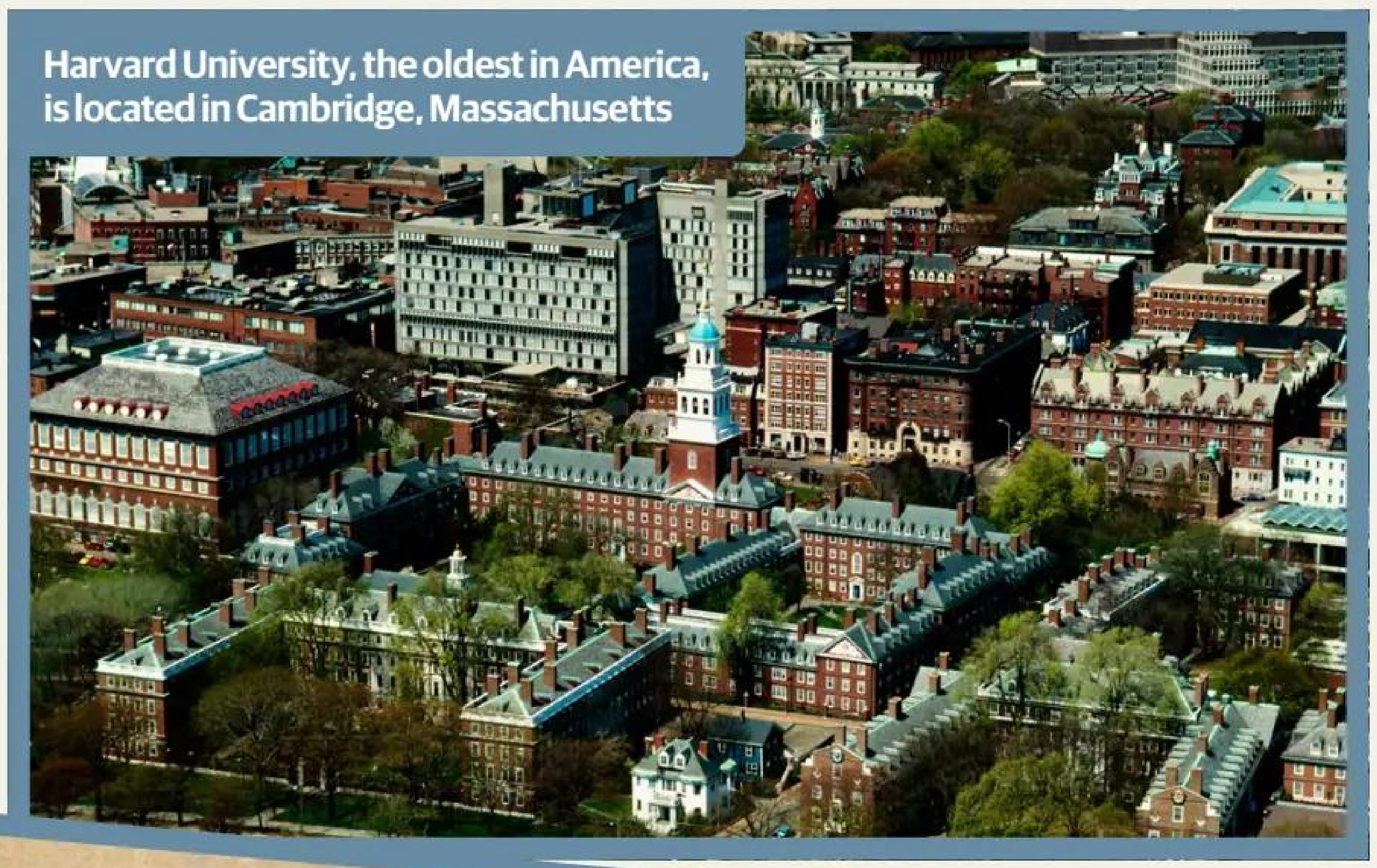
**The USS *Constitution* is the US Navy's oldest commissioned ship**

In Boston sits a living relic of the War of 1812 with Great Britain. During this conflict, several US Navy warships won glory, but none more than the powerful frigate USS *Constitution*. Launched in 1797, she, along with her equally potent sisters, *United States* and *President*, were the strongest frigates in America's fleet. They were very heavily-armed and bigger than the opponents they came to face.

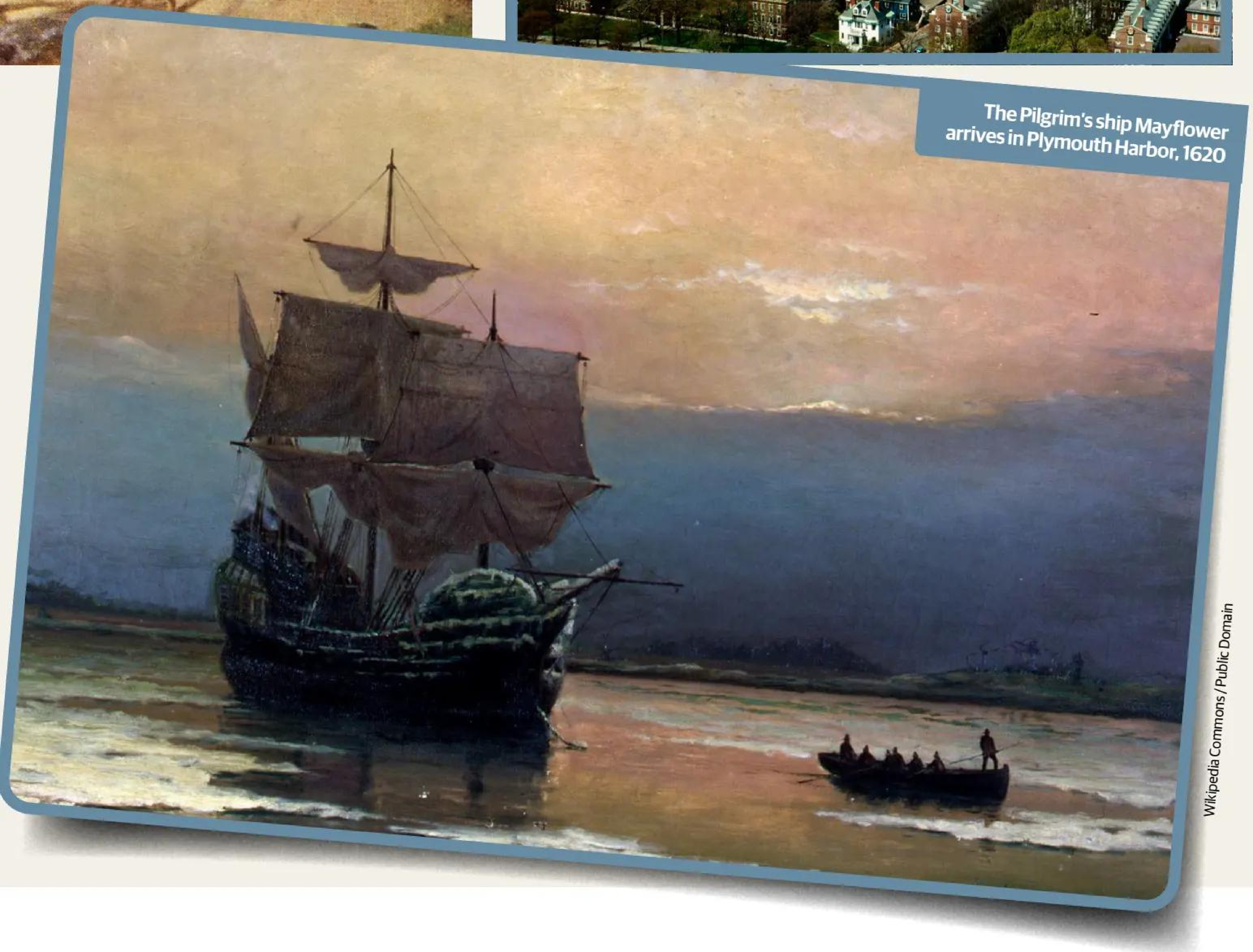
A frigate was a fast warship intended to perform reconnaissance on behalf of the main fleet. A frigate often fought duels against other frigates. In 1812, *Constitution* fought two engagements against British ships, HMS *Guerrière* and HMS *Java*, and won both. During the fight with *Guerrière*, some of her opponent's cannonballs rebounded from her hull timbers, from which came her moniker of 'Old Ironsides.'

Despite the passage of over two centuries since her launch, *Constitution* has survived. She is today the oldest commissioned warship still afloat anywhere in the world, and as well as being a museum ship resident in Boston's Charlestown Navy Yard.



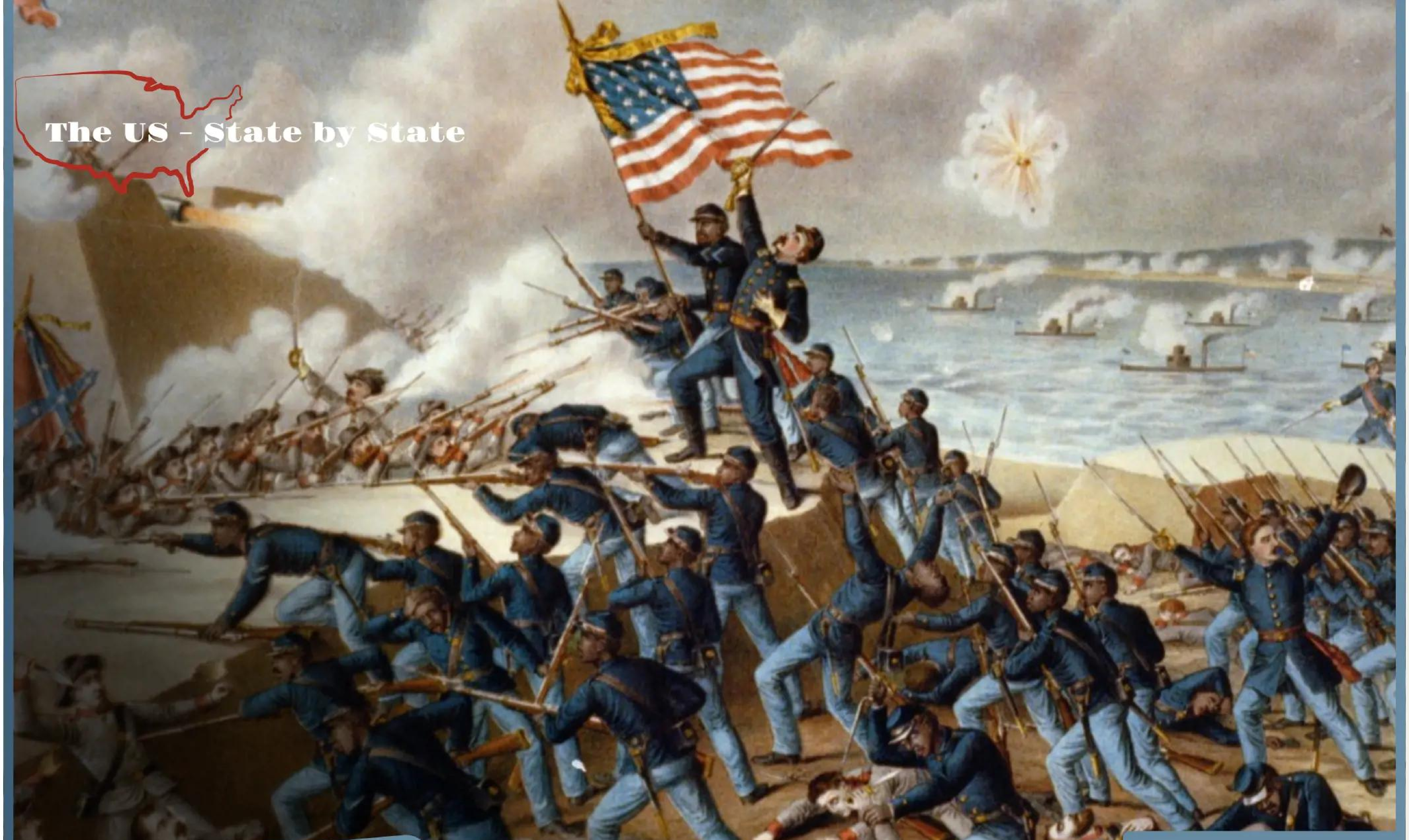


Harvard University, the oldest in America, is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts

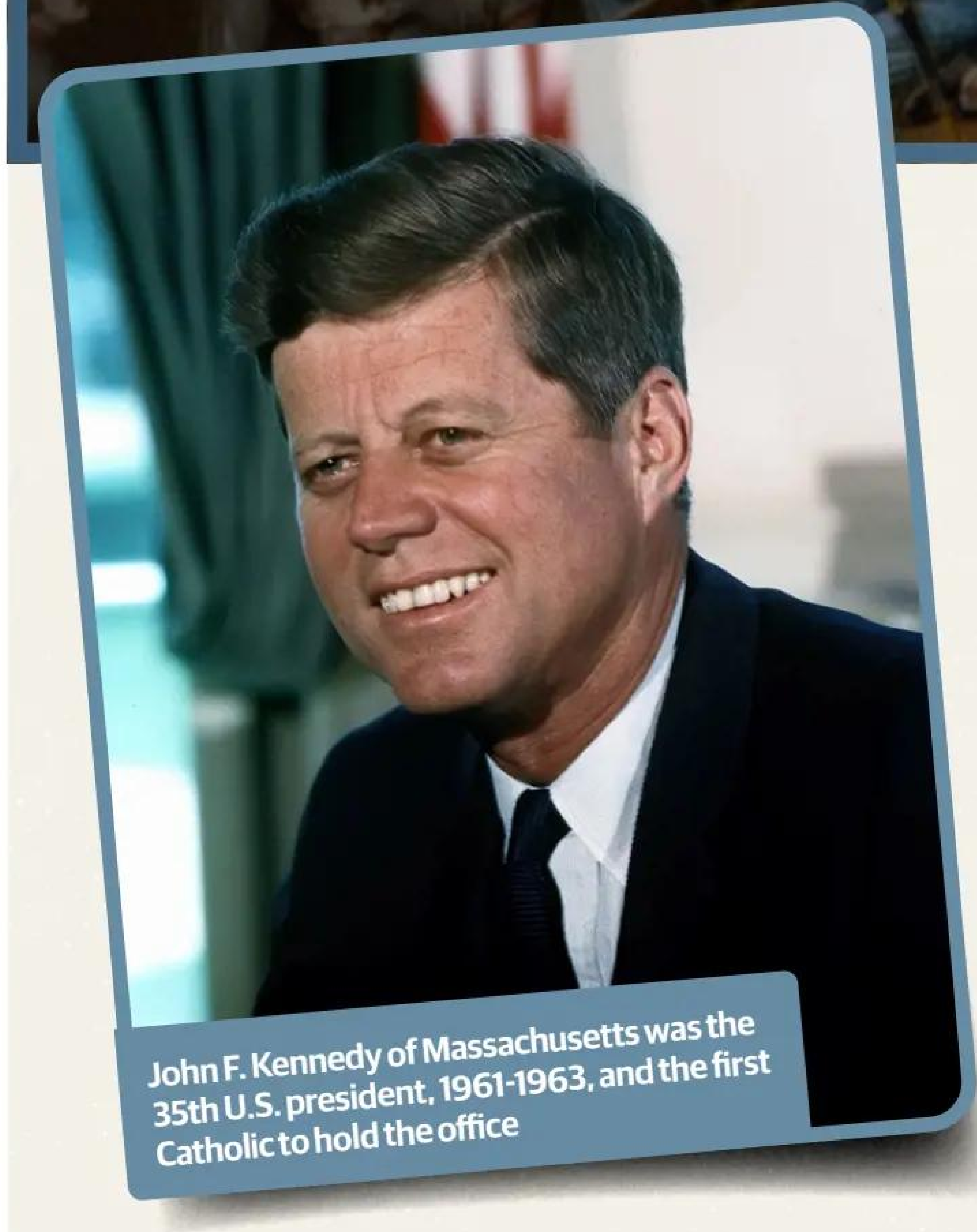


The Pilgrim's ship Mayflower arrives in Plymouth Harbor, 1620

Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain



Soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment attack Fort Wagner, 18 July 1863



John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts was the 35th U.S. president, 1961-1963, and the first Catholic to hold the office

was the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, which was composed of African American soldiers and white officers. The regiment's commander, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the son of a Boston abolitionist, fell in a night assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina, on 18 July 1863, along with over 40 percent of his fellow soldiers. Shaw's bravery was extolled by those who survived. He had advanced under withering fire, and led the charge, his sword aloft. He was cut down while standing on top of the fort's wall.

Another notable from Massachusetts who took up the anti-slavery cause was none other than former President John Quincy Adams. In 1841, he represented Africans who had been enslaved but had then taken over the slave ship La Amistad. This ship had wound up in America, and the Africans sought their free return to their homeland. Adams represented them without payment, argued their case with exceptional eloquence before the United States Supreme Court, and won them their liberty.

## Powerhouse of Sports

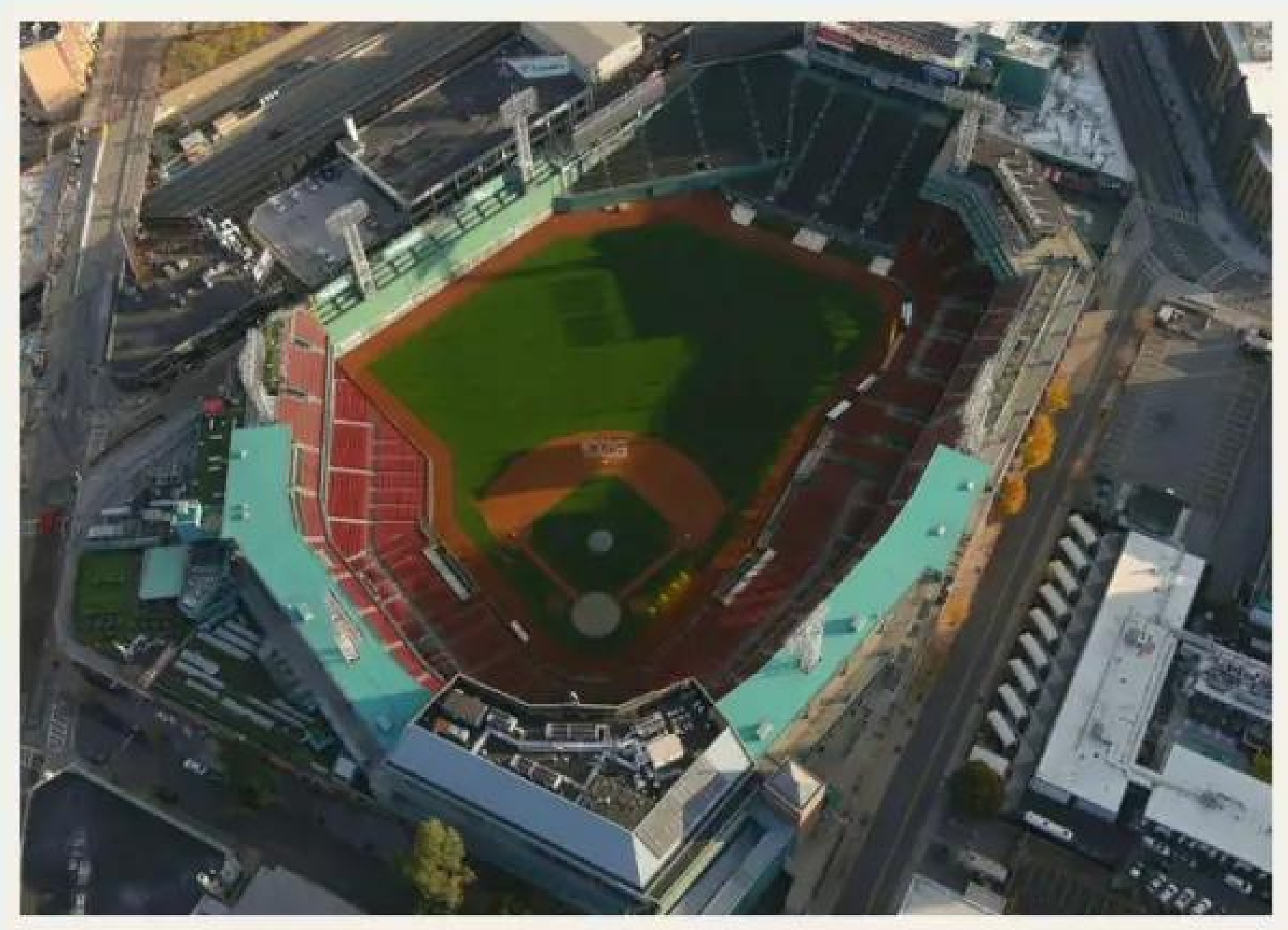
Massachusetts has seen its professional sports teams excel in the 21st century. The New England Patriots enjoyed an extraordinary run of success, winning championships in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2015, 2017, and 2019. The Boston Red Sox have taken top honours in baseball, winning no fewer than four World Series titles, in 2004, 2007, 2013, and 2018. The Boston Celtics of the National Basketball Association won league championships in both 2008 and 2024. Last, but not least, the Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup in 2011. ★

## BOSTON'S FIELD

**Fenway Park is an outstanding ballfield of the Major Leagues**

The fabled Green Monster Looms over the left field of America's oldest ballpark in Major League Baseball: Fenway. It is an enormous wall, soaring 11.3m (37 ft) in height and running 73m (240 ft) in length. It has witnessed some of the Boston Red Sox's greatest players take the field, such as Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Carlton Fisk, Mo Vaughn, Roger Clemens, and Curt Schilling.

Fenway Park opened on 20 April 1912, with the Red Sox playing a home game against the New York Highlanders. Originally seating 28,000 attendees, the park can now accommodate a little over 37,000. Though the Red Sox have had so many storied players on their rosters over the decades, they failed to win a championship after the last came in 1918. Some claimed that this was due to a curse. It was called the 'Curse of the Bambino' since 'Bambino' was the nickname of the spectacular Babe Ruth, who was dealt to the rival New York Yankees in 1920. The so-called 'Curse' was not lifted until 2004, when the Red Sox at last won another championship, to the delight of their delirious fans.



Images : Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady lifts the Lombardi Trophy after winning a Super Bowl with the team in 2017

STATE NO.
26

# MICHIGAN

## The state of motors and music changed American forever

Words Emily Staniforth

## BIO

**Nickname:** Great Lakes State

**Anthem:** 'My Michigan'

**Admitted to the Union:** 26 January 1837

**Capital:** Lansing

**Population:** 10,140,459

**Sports franchises:**

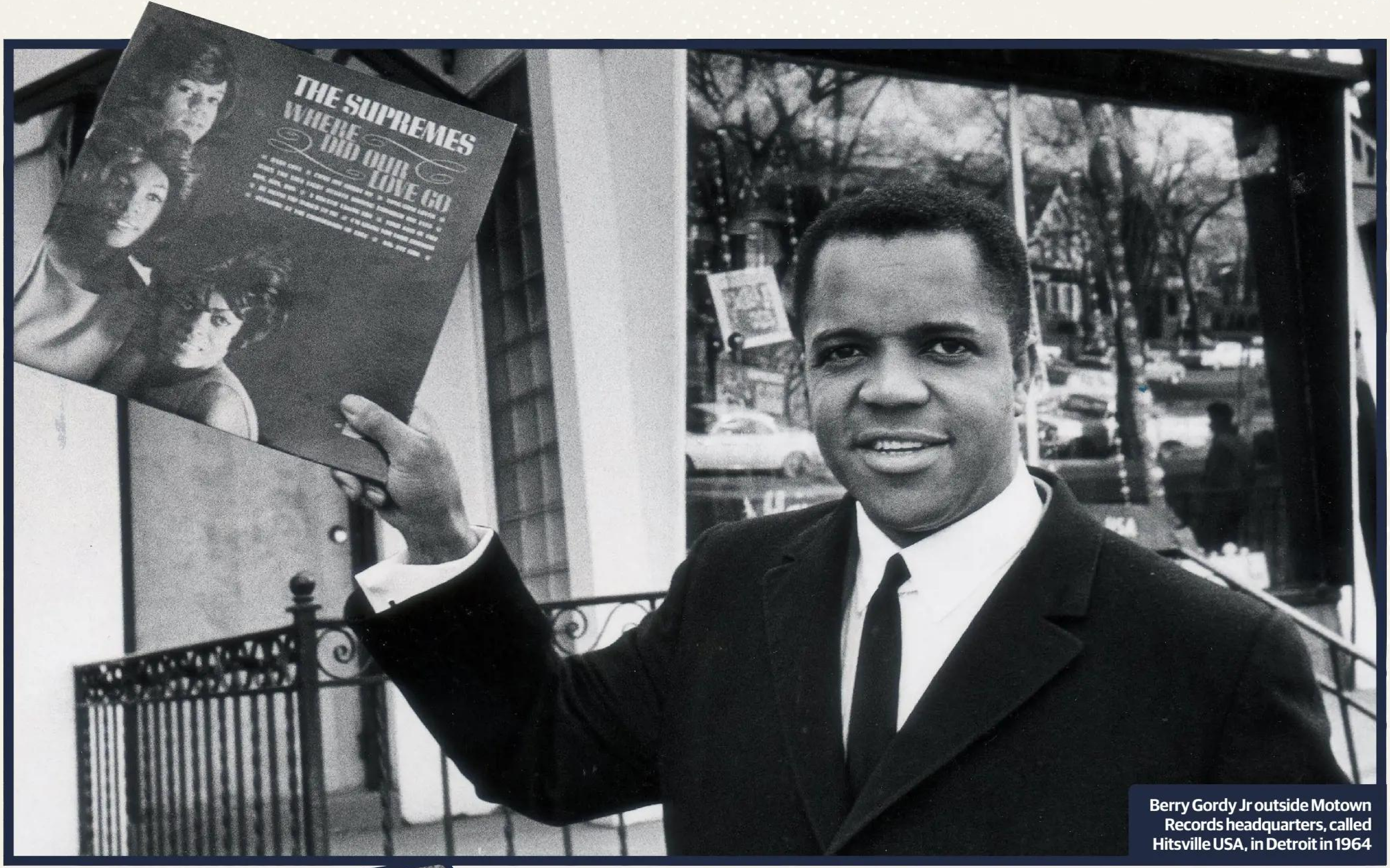
NFL: Detroit Lions

NBA: Detroit Pistons

MLB: Detroit Tigers

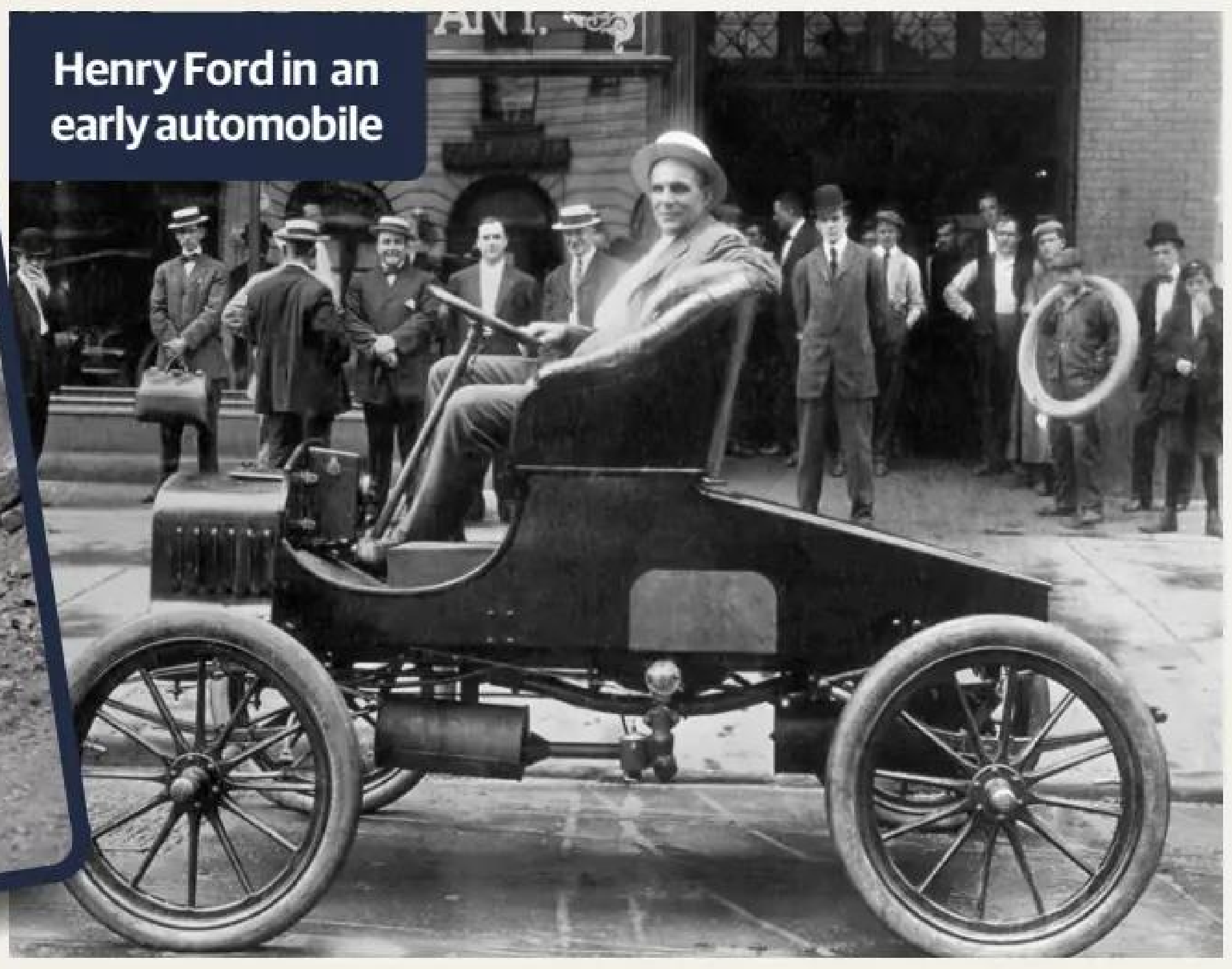
**Like many states, Michigan at the time of its admittance to the Union was an agricultural state.** The state experienced a flurry of migration during the 1830s with many families moving from elsewhere in the US, in what came to be known as Michigan Fever. In 1820, Michigan's population had numbered under 9,000 but by 1840 that number had expanded rapidly to over 212,000. Migration to the state was only increased by discoveries in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the 1840s, which revealed the area to be rich in copper and iron ore. As a result, Michigan became a leading state in the copper and iron mining industries and was the biggest producer of iron ore in the US between 1844 and 1890.

For much of the 19th century, Michigan's economy was powered by the iron and copper industry, as well as agriculture and logging. However, innovations in automobile manufacturing changed everything in the 20th century. While the birthplace of the automobile is widely accepted as being in Germany, Michigan has long been considered the centre of the automotive industry due to the boom in car manufacturing in the state. In 1908, entrepreneur Henry Ford revolutionised the automotive market by creating the famous Model T car. The motor could be mass produced and was affordable and dependable, revolutionising transportation forever. Following Ford's success, other motoring giants like General Motors and Chrysler operated out of Michigan, cementing its role at the heart of the industry.


THE SUPREMES
WHERE DID OUR LOVE GO

Berry Gordy Jr outside Motown Records headquarters, called Hitsville USA, in Detroit in 1964

An open iron ore pit in Wakefield, Michigan in 1900



Henry Ford in an early automobile

> **"Michigan's economy was powered by the iron and copper industry"**

Michigan is also known for being the home of Kellogg's as the Kellogg family invented a wheat flake cereal in Battle Creek in 1894. This initial product was developed into cornflakes and the Battle Creek Toasted Corn Flake Company, later Kellogg's, was established in 1906. The state's other great claim to fame is that Motown Records, the music label that shaped American soul and R&B music, was founded in Detroit in 1959. Established by Berry Gordy Junior, Motown Records is credited with starting a cultural movement that helped to unify a racially divided America through its fostering of Black artists. Named Motown as a nod to Detroit's moniker of Motor Town, the label produced an eye-watering number of hits throughout the 1960s and signed artists such as Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and the Supremes and The Jackson 5. Detroit also became the birthplace of techno music in the 1980s when three African American student DJs, who called themselves the Belleville Three, experimented with electronic music. Combining European electronic with American funk, techno was born and quickly spread throughout Detroit's music scene before going global. ★

## FOUNDING THE FORD MUSEUM

**Henry Ford's legacy lives on through his vast collections of technological Americana**

In addition to putting Michigan on the map, Henry Ford also left the state with one of the most intriguing and fascinating museums in the US. A great collector, Ford believed it was important to preserve historical items for the purpose of education and thus founded the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in 1929 in Dearborn. The museum opened in 1933 and over the years, Over the years, it has acquired many significant objects, including the Wright Brothers' home and bicycle shop (acquired by Ford in 1936 and relocated from Ohio to the Dearborn museum) and the bus upon which Rosa Parks made her history-changing civil rights protest.

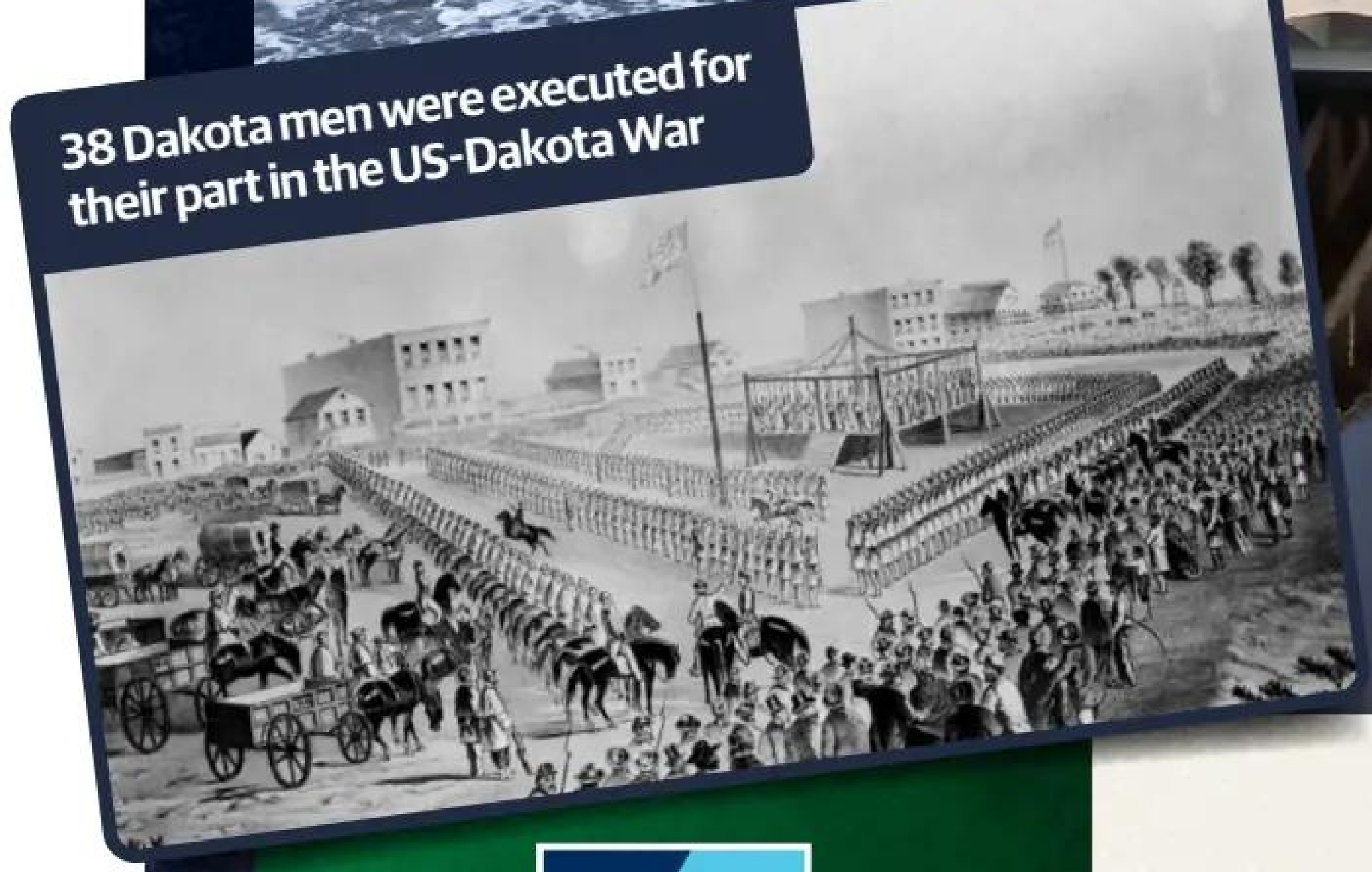
Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
32

# MINNESOTA

## How war, depression and politics forged the North Star State

Words Emily Staniforth



38 Dakota men were executed for their part in the US-Dakota War

**BIO**

**Nickname:** The North Star State

**Anthem:** 'Hail! Minnesota'

**Admitted to the Union:** 11 May 1858

**Capital:** Saint Paul

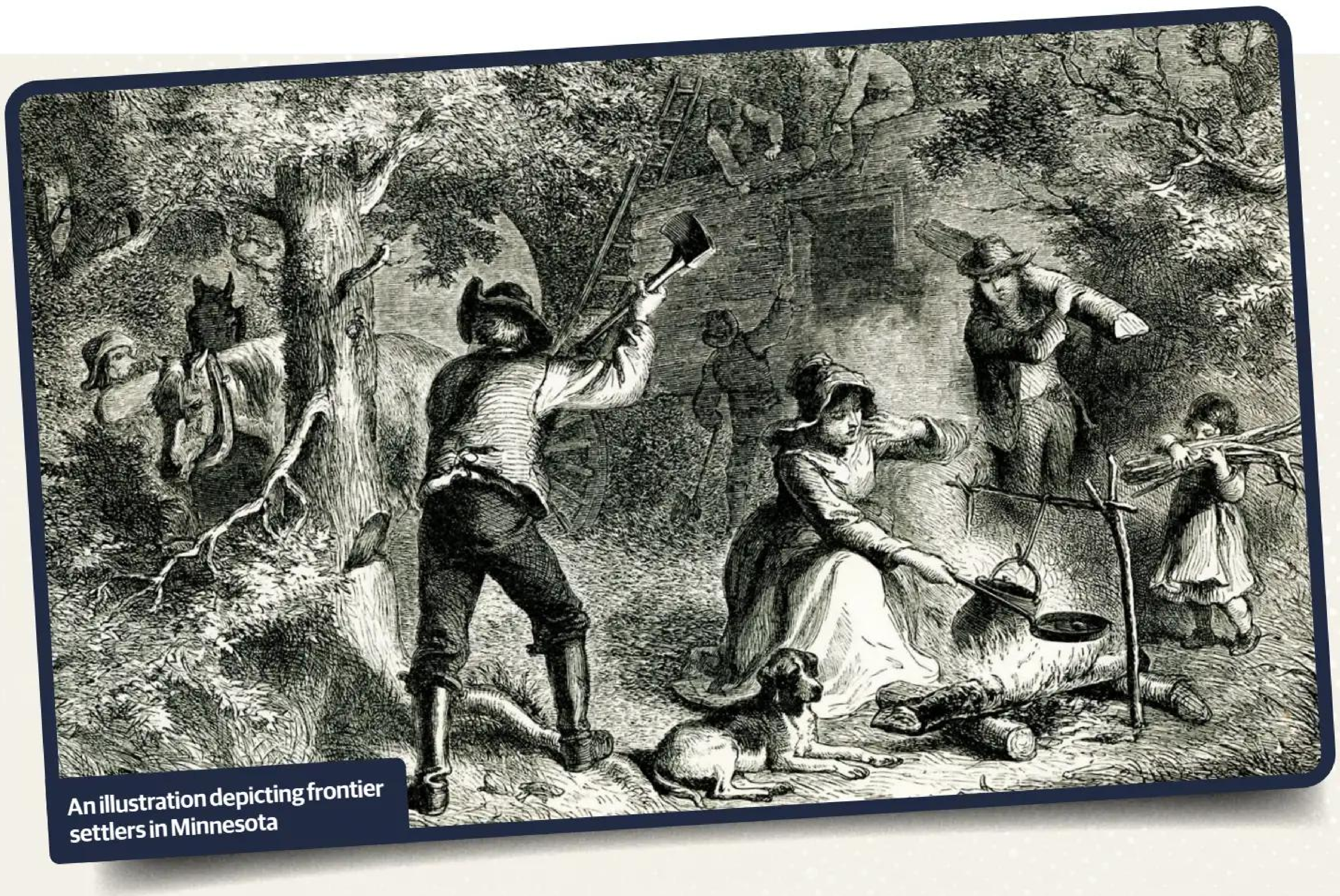
**Population:** 5,793,151

**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Minnesota Vikings
NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves
MLB: Minnesota Twins

**When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, Minnesota became notable as the first Northern state to send volunteers to fight.** Governor Alexander Ramsay offered 1,000 men for the Union cause which was a substantial number considering Minnesota's smaller population.

Just a year later, and only four years after Minnesota was admitted to the Union, the state became embroiled in a brutal conflict known as the US - Dakota War. The Native American Dakota tribe had seen their land and resources reduced for decades and in 1862, they staged an uprising against white Minnesotans. Within five weeks, the bloody conflict resulted in the deaths of over 600 people, with a further 38 Dakota men executed for their roles in the violence.

Minnesota's economy depended on logging, mining and the fur trade during the 19th century. Many European fur traders had settled there in the early 1800s and traded with native tribes, with the industry later monitored by the American Fur Company, which was based in the state. The 1880s also saw an influx of migration to the state and commercial agriculture established. However, following the end of World War I, many US states, including Minnesota, were plunged into financial disaster when farm incomes plummeted. With the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, things only got worse for rural Minnesotans and thousands of farms went bankrupt. The dire economic situation



An illustration depicting frontier settlers in Minnesota

in Minnesota only worsened and by the 1930s, unemployment in the US reached its all-time high.

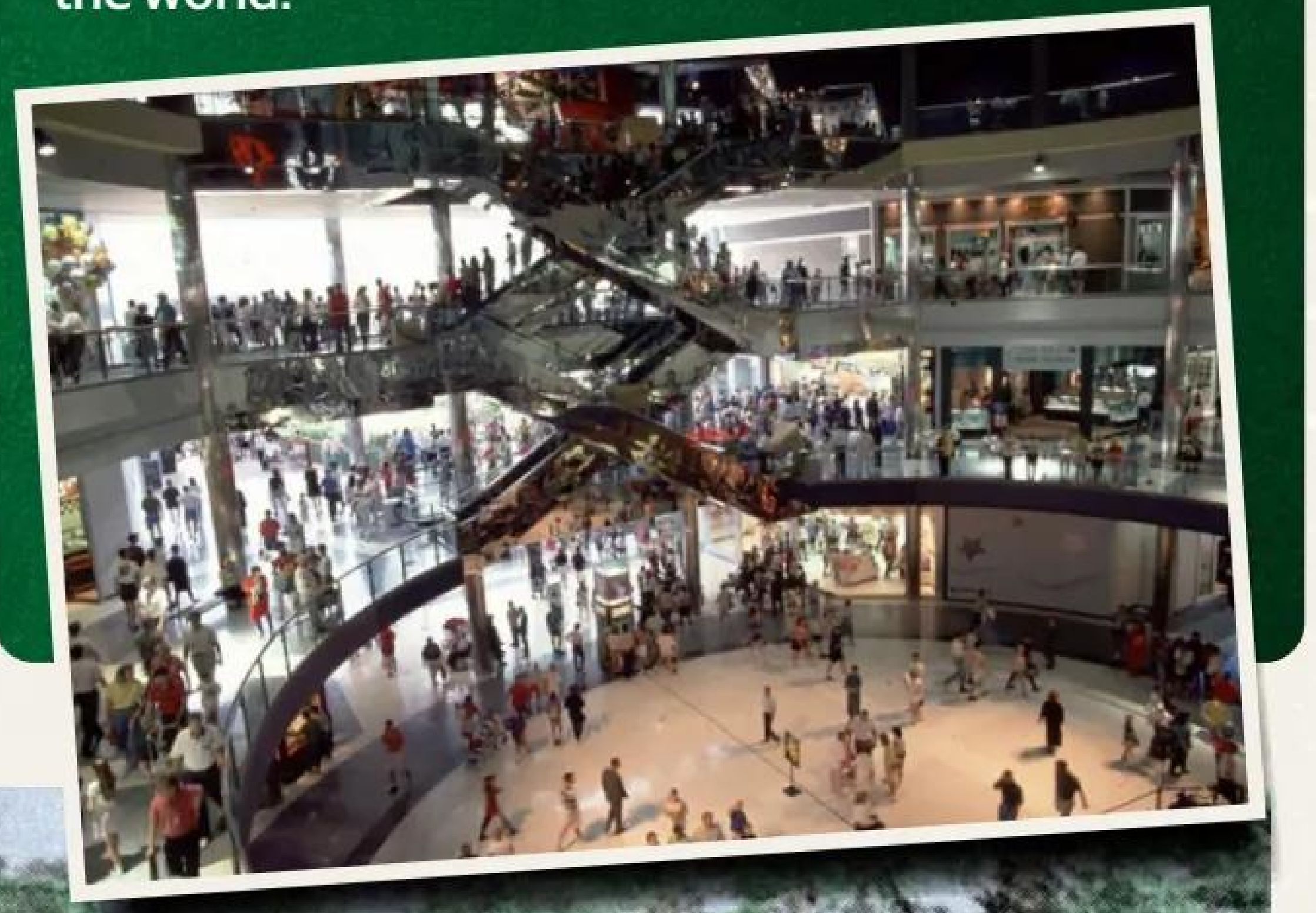
In response to the troubles plaguing Minnesota in the early 20th century, a new political party was formed which brought together rural farmers and urban city workers alike. The left wing Farmer-Labor party fought for ordinary Minnesotans, supporting protests and strikes and campaigning for fair wages. The success of the Farmer-Labor party was undeniable and dominated Minnesota's political landscape during the 1920s and 30s. In 1944, the party merged with the Minnesota Democrats to become the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party of Minnesota. Future American Vice President Hubert Humphrey was a key figure in negotiating the confluence of the two parties.

Minnesota is famous for its Twin Cities that sit on either side of the Mississippi River. Traditionally Minneapolis on the west side was the state's lumber and milling centre while Saint Paul, on the east side was the government and financial district. Saint Paul had originally been made the capital of the Minnesota Territory in 1849 and remains the state capital today. ★

## THE MALL OF AMERICA

**Building the largest centre for shopping and entertainment in the US**

In 1992, the Mall of America was opened to the public. It was, and remains, America's biggest shopping and entertainment centre. Built in Bloomington, Minnesota, the idea for the mall was first proposed following the relocation of the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings sports teams to a new stadium in Minneapolis. The abandoned Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington provided an opportunity for development, and work began on the grand mall in 1989. At the time of its opening just a few years later, the Mall of America was home to 330 stores as well as restaurants and a cinema. Now, the Mall continues to impress with its huge size and enticing shopping opportunities and attracts nearly 40 million visitors every year from around the world.



Minnesotan loggers in the 1890s

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
20

# MISSISSIPPI

## The Magnolia State, rich in culture, nature and birthplace of the delta blues

Words Bee Ginger

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Magnolia State
**Anthem:** 'One Mississippi'
**Admitted to the Union:** 10 December 1817
**Capital:** Jackson
**Population:** 2,943,045
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**The state of Mississippi is said to offer the heartfelt slogan of 'The South's Warmest Welcome', and many would agree that arriving here feels like coming home.** Bordered by Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, it is of course home to one of the world's most recognisable waterways. The Mississippi River is located at the very heart of the Bible Belt, boasting more churches per capita than anywhere else in the country.

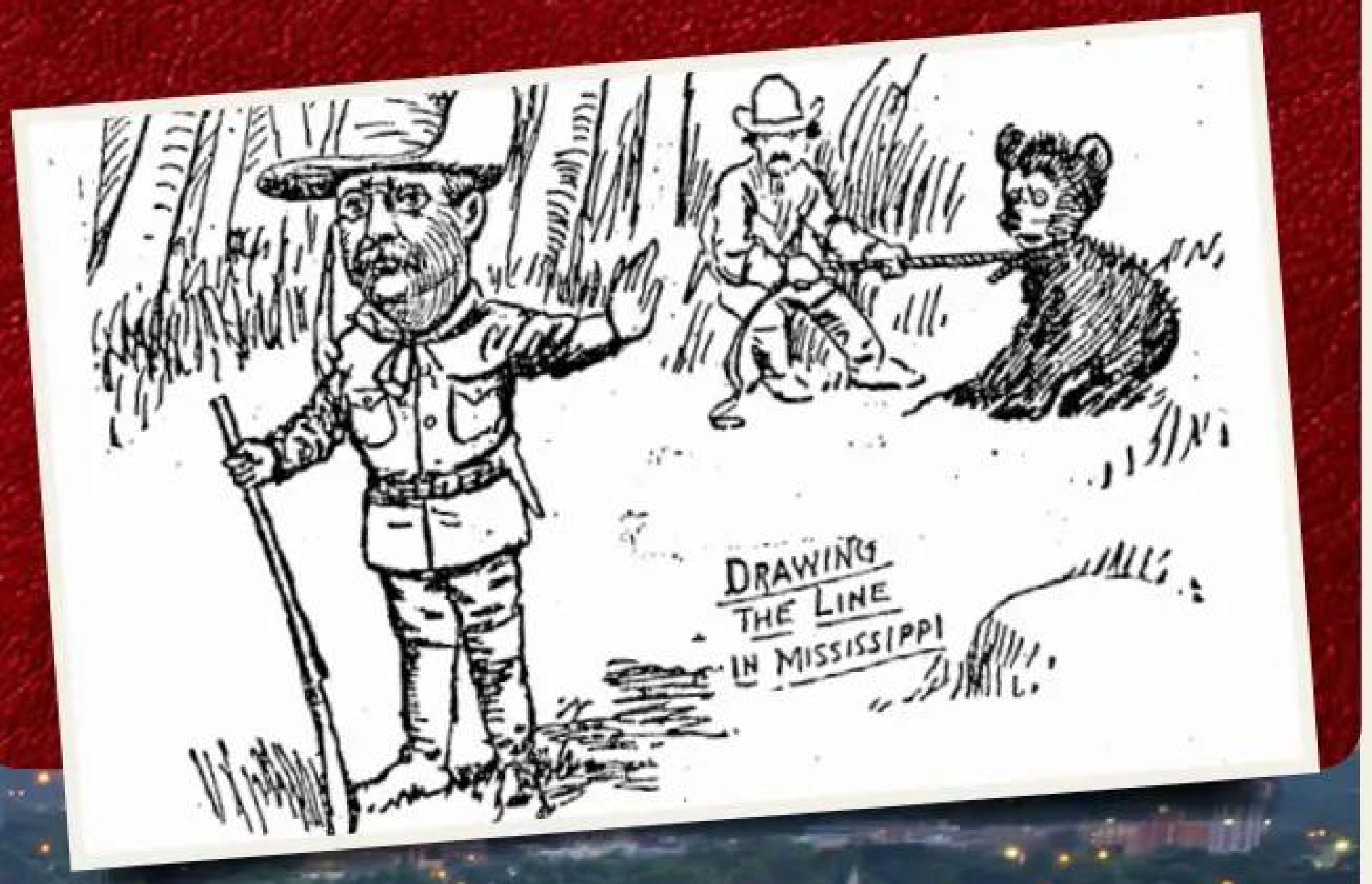
Following a tumultuous history with much changing of hands, the region of Mississippi eventually landed in the lap of the Americans following the Revolutionary War, and the US Congress made Mississippi its 20th state on 10 December 1817. Originally Natchez had been the capital but that changed and moved several times before landing on Jackson in 1822. There was a slight change in the tides at the beginning of the Civil war when Abraham Lincoln took up the mantle of president with Mississippi being one of the first states to secede from the United States and join the Confederacy. It was not admitted back into the Union until 1870 after constitutional laws were changed to allow former slaves in the region to vote. The legacy of slavery in the area is still apparent, particularly when it comes to music, namely African American spirituals which have had deep and profound impact in many genres of music including gospel, rock and roll, country and of course the blues. Music served as an important and extremely powerful form of expression for enslaved people, not only conveying

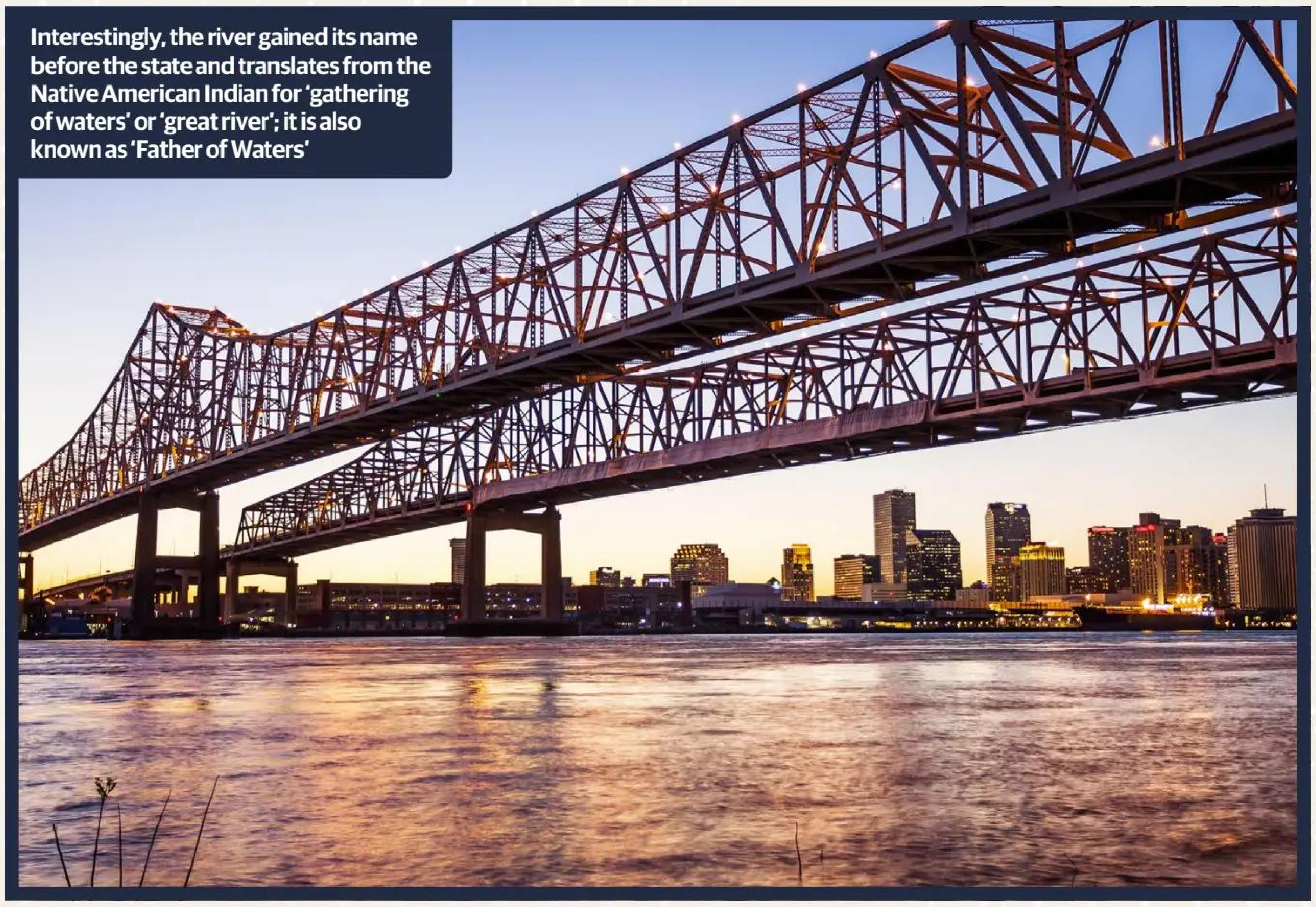
The capital city of Mississippi, Jackson, pictured at dusk

## HOW THE HUMBLE TEDDY BEAR CAME TO BE

**When the president of the United States spared a bear in the forests of Mississippi**

It was in one of Mississippi's verdant forests that the humble Teddy Bear came to be, invented in honour of the then president Theodore Roosevelt. Notoriously an avid big game hunter, Roosevelt had embarked on a bear hunting trip with Mississippi's Governor Andrew H. Longino on 14 November 1902. The president was unsuccessful in his hunt so in order to help him save face his assistants cornered and tied a black bear to a tree encouraging Roosevelt to shoot it. Thankfully the president felt this to be extremely unsportsmanlike and the bear was spared. News of the event however spread across the US like wild fire with articles and cartoons recounting Roosevelt's mercy, and the Theodore ( Teddy ) bear was born.


DRAWING THE LINE IN MISSISSIPPI



Interestingly, the river gained its name before the state and translates from the Native American Indian for 'gathering of waters' or 'great river'; it is also known as 'Father of Waters'

> "Many popular musicians and artists hail from the area, including B.B. King, Bo Diddley and Elvis Presley"

spiritual and religious narratives but often coded communication with messages of encouragement, resistance, unwavering hope and in some cases plans for escape. 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' is an example of a spiritual song still sung by many today. Following the American Civil war, the Blues continued to grow in popularity, developing musically as a way for newly freed slaves to express themselves and tell their story influencing music worldwide. Many popular musicians and artists hail from the area, including B.B. King, Bo Diddley and Elvis Presley.

The state itself is over 60% forested, in addition to prairie, farmland and the river. Wild trees join together with cultivated varieties including willow, oak, cottonwood, hickory and pine forests. There is even a Petrified Forest, located near Flora. This National Natural Landmark features petrified wood from ancient trees which through the ages and a process of mineralisation have turned to stone. Fossilized and buried, the trees are thought to have been transported to the area by river. Benefitting from such super fertile soil the area yields a number of crops, from sweet potatoes, soybeans to corn and cotton. Transportation equipment, oil and textiles are also important key industries in the area as is the farming of catfish. Known as the catfish capital of the world, local species including channel, blue and flathead catfish, all are raised for both export and local consumption. Southern fried catfish is a local speciality in the state alongside a generous helping of Mississippi mud pie, which tastes a whole lot better than it sounds. ★

Gateway TO THE BLUES
TUNICA, MS

The Gateway to the Blues museum and visitors centre

The Mississippi Queen paddle boat on the Mississippi river

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
24

# MISSOURI

## Since the Louisiana Purchase, Missouri has become a centre of American history

**Words Emily Staniforth**

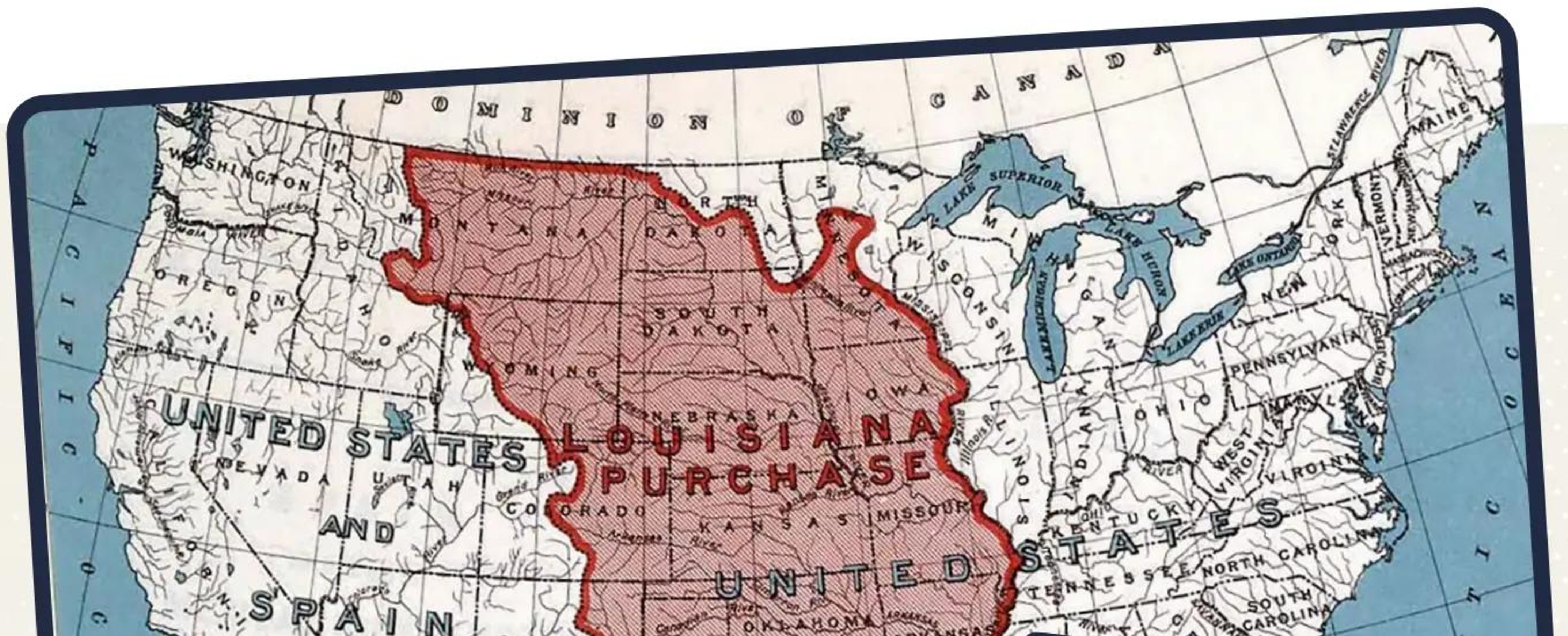
### BIO

**Nickname:**
The Show Me State
**Anthem:** 'Missouri Waltz'
**Admitted to the Union:**
10 August 1821
**Capital:** Jefferson City
**Population:** 6,245,466
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Kansas City Chiefs
MLB: Kansas City Royals, St. Louis Cardinals

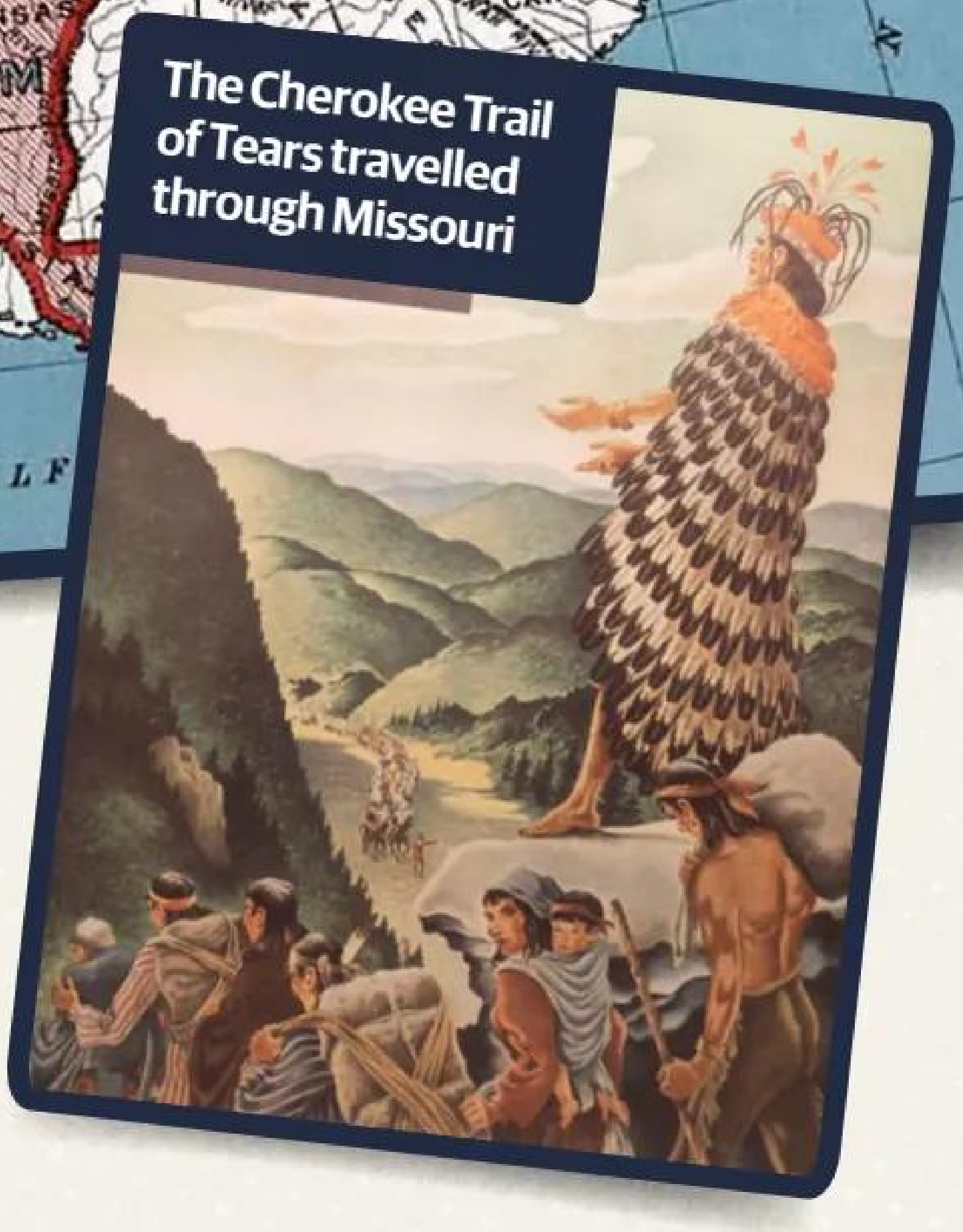
**Missouri officially became part of the United States in 1803 when it was acquired as part of the infamous Louisiana Purchase.** At the time, the state of Missouri as we know it today was part of the large Louisiana Territory bought by the US from France. The deal was a defining moment in American history. A few years later, in 1812, the Missouri Territory was established by Congress and in 1821, Missouri became a state and was admitted to the Union as a slave state as part of the Missouri Compromise, in which Maine was also admitted as a free state.

In 1830, with the passing of the Indian Removal Act, Missouri witnessed one of the darkest times in American history. Tens of thousands of Native Americans were forcibly displaced from their lands and travelled across the country to a new 'Indian Territory' in what became known as the Trail of Tears. Cherokee, Seminole, Chickasaw and Muscogee people, among other Native American tribes, marched through states, including Missouri, to the west of the Mississippi River in harsh conditions, with thousands dying due to starvation, exposure and disease. The Trail of Tears State Park in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri was established in 1957 to memorialise those who died on the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

Missouri was at the centre of one of the most significant Supreme Court cases in 1857 when Dred Scott, an enslaved African American, attempted to sue for his and his family's freedom. Scott's case


DOMINION OF CANADA
UNITED STATES AND SPAIN 1803-1819
LOUISIANA PURCHASE
UNITED STATES FROM
TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA 1803-1819

Missouri became a part of the US during the Louisiana Purchase in 1803



The Cherokee Trail of Tears travelled through Missouri

relied on the fact that he was owned by an army surgeon, Dr Emerson, who had for a time lived in the free territory of Wisconsin, which considered slavery illegal. When Scott sued, Emerson had moved to Missouri, a slave state. The case concluded when the Supreme Court ruled that enslaved people could not be American citizens and thus could not sue in federal court. The ruling, known as the Dred Scott Decision, whipped up tensions over the slavery debate which was dividing America at the time.

In 1904, to celebrate 100 years since the Louisiana Purchase, a large international exposition was held in St Louis. Around 19 million people visited the World's Fair over seven months to view objects and displays, which demonstrated American innovation, technology, art and architecture. Missouri was also a centre of literature in the 19th century as the birthplace of two of America's most famous writers. *Huckleberry Finn* author Mark Twain was born in Florida, Missouri in 1835 while poet and playwright T.S. Eliot, who won the 1948 Nobel Prize in Literature, was born in St Louis in 1888. ★

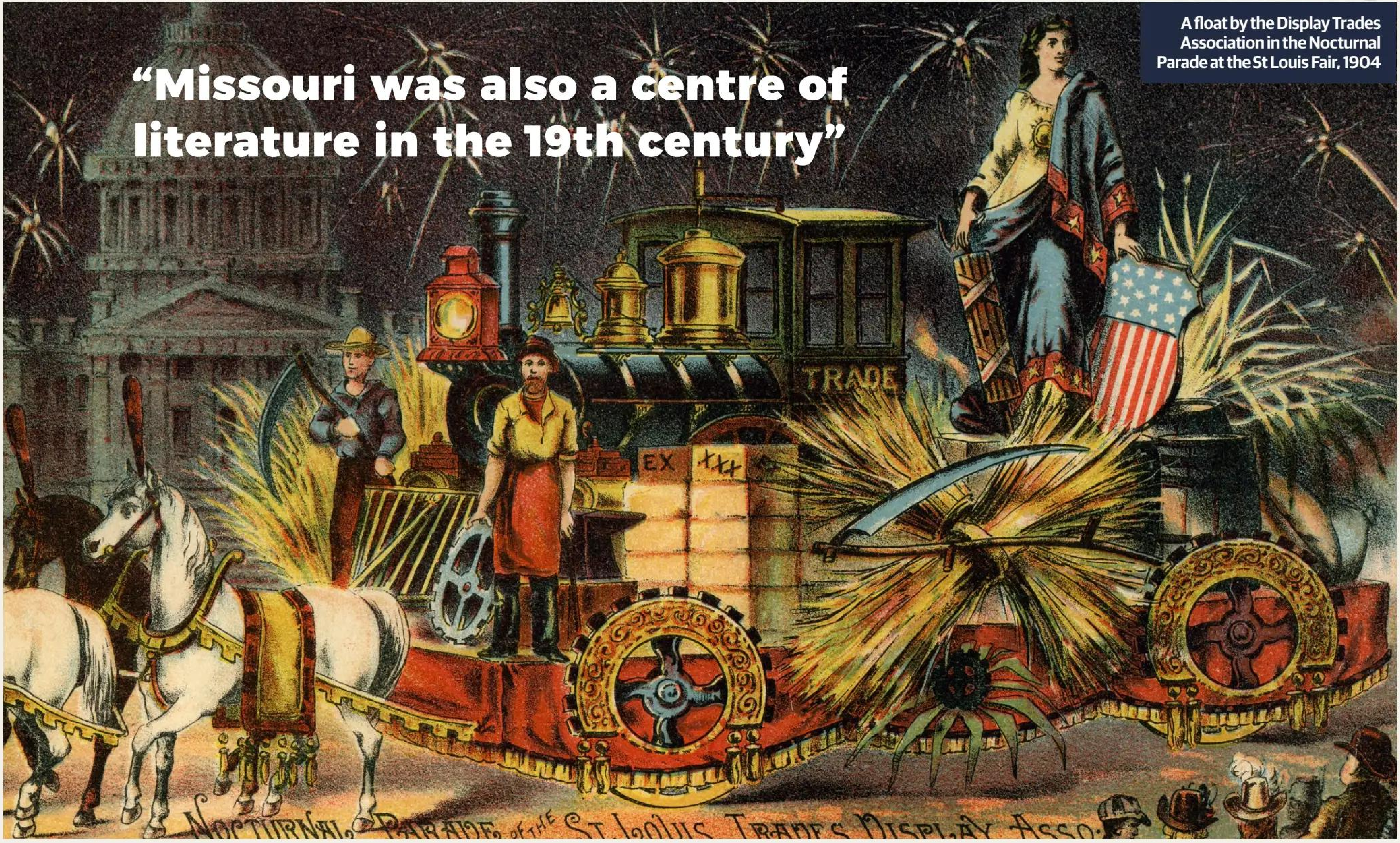
## MISSOURI'S GIANT GATEWAY

**How a huge arch was built to symbolise America's westward expansion**

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established a national park in St Louis, Missouri, which was to be the location of a new monument to commemorate "Thomas Jefferson's vision of a transcontinental United States". The stainless steel arch design of Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen was chosen for the memorial and work began on the structure in 1963. The monument, known as the Gateway Arch, was completed in 1965 and towered over the national park. At 192m (630 ft) tall it was, and still is, the tallest arch in the world. Since its completion, the Gateway Arch has become a symbol of St Louis and a popular tourist attraction.

The Gateway Arch is the tallest monument in the US

Images ; Wiki Commons / NicoFlynn


TRADE
EX
XXX
NOCTURNAL PARADE of the ST LOUIS TRADES DISPLAY ASSO.

A float by the Display Trades Association in the Nocturnal Parade at the St Louis Fair, 1904

> "Missouri was also a centre of literature in the 19th century"

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.

41

# MONTANA

On the Canadian border, Montana is where the Rockies meet the plains

Words Adam England

Saint Mary Lake in Glacier National Park, Montana

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Treasure State

**Anthem:** 'Montana'

**Admitted to the Union:** 8 November 1889

**Capital:** Helena

**Population:** 1,137,233

**Sports franchises:** N/A

**The majority of Montana was acquired from France in the Louisiana Purchase, and it became the 41st US state in 1889 following the discovery of gold and subsequent population growth in the area over the second half of the 19th century.**

Mining was prevalent in the state, with silver and copper being discovered in areas including the city of Butte, and businessman Marcus Daly's Anaconda Company became one of the largest mining companies in the world.

The Enlarged Homestead Act was passed in 1909, bringing tens of thousands of farmers to the state, and wheat farming was widespread. Meanwhile, there was conflict between mining companies and the labour unions criticizing them for long hours, low pay, and dangerous conditions – things came to a head when union leader Frank Little was lynched in Butte in 1917.

Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to hold federal office in the US, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1916, and the lifelong pacifist opposed involvement in World War I. However, Montana passed the Sedition Act in 1918, leading to hundreds of arrests for anti-war speech.

## Economic strife and wartime changes

Wheat farming struggled because of drought and then an economic depression that followed WWI. The downturn continued across the 1920s and through the nationwide Great Depression.

## GO BACK IN TIME

**150 years on from the Battle of Little Bighorn, this monument preserves the site**

The Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, located in the Crow Reservation, marks the Battle of Little Bighorn. The battle, between George Armstrong Custer's army cavalry regiment and a force comprising people from the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes, took place from June 25-26 1876 as part of the Great Sioux War.

Inside the monument, there's a memorial dedicated to the Native American fighters, white markers indicating where the soldiers of the 7th Cavalry fell, and Custer National Cemetery, where known and unknown soldiers are buried. The monument, a short drive from the city of Hardin, is open to the public.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal gave Montana a degree of respite with the building of Fort Peck Dam and the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. These projects provided work opportunities and improved the state's infrastructure.

When the US joined World War II in 1941, a lot of Montana's young people either joined the armed forces or moved to the West Coast to work. Montana contributed one of the highest numbers of soldiers per capita of all states, and this ultimately led to a shift in demographics.

## Modern Montana

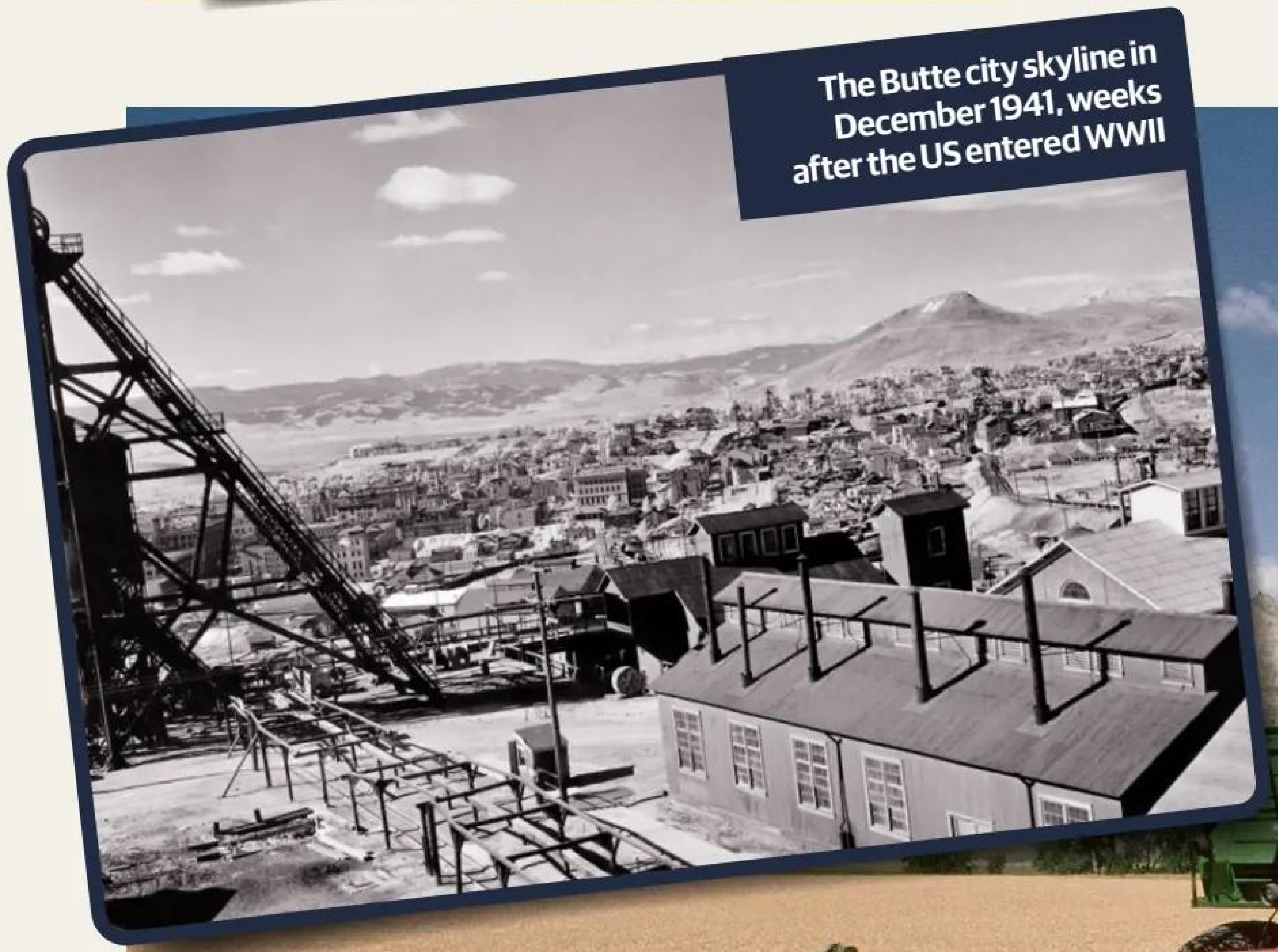
Post-WWII, Montana became an important Cold War location for the US Air Force, and in 1959 Malmstrom Air Force Base became the home of the Minuteman I intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). In time, Montana had the largest ICBM field in the country, totalling 61,000 km² (23,500 square miles).

Since World War II, Montana has gradually been transitioning from an economy dominated by the primary sector to one that's service-based. Tourism has also been on the rise, with Glacier National Park as well as cities like Bozeman and Missoula being popular destinations.

An array of species including the mountain goat call Montana home

In March 1972, a new constitution was adopted and then ratified in June, replacing the original 1889 constitution. It included a bill of rights and environmental protections, and inspired the Indian Education for All law, which would strengthen the awareness of Native American history and culture in the state. ★

> "Montana became an important Cold War location for the US Air Force"



The Butte city skyline in December 1941, weeks after the US entered WWII

A farmer at work in rural Montana in 1997

Images on spread: Getty; Wiki Commons / Public Domain

STATE NO. 37

# NEBRASKA

## A Midwest state, Nebraska sits in the middle of the Great Plains

**Words Adam England**

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Cornhusker State

**Anthem:** 'Beautiful Nebraska'

**Admitted to the Union:** 1 March, 1867

**Capital:** Lincoln

**Population:** 2,005,465

**Sports franchises:** N/A

**The US acquired the land that would become Nebraska from France in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, and in 1819, Fort Atkinson – east of today's city of Fort Calhoun – became the first army post west of the Missouri River.**

In 1854, Congress created Nebraska under the Kansas-Nebraska Act. After settlers began to move in, claiming free land under the government's 1862 Homestead Act and increasing the population, Nebraska became the 37th state in 1867. Lincoln, then named Lancaster, became its capital.

Over time, railroads were built to help connect the state to the rest of the US – before then, people, livestock and goods were brought in via water. The Union Pacific Railroad, the second-largest in the country, has its headquarters in Omaha.

The population continued to rise as farming technology advanced through the late 19th century, and African Americans moved there from the South as part of the Great Migration. Omaha, Nebraska's biggest city, has a rich history of civil rights activism.

In the 1890s, the Populist Party developed in Nebraska to support workers and farmers, with policies advocating government ownership of railroads, lower taxes, pensions for elderly soldiers and an eight-hour workday. Before later running for president as a Democrat, William Jennings Bryan, a prominent member of the party, served two terms in the House of Representatives and delivered the famous Cross of Gold speech, one of the most famous in the history of the US, in 1896. Nebraska is

The skyline of Omaha, Nebraska's largest city

Nebraska has diversified its economy over the years and it is now less dependent on agriculture

unique for its unicameral legislature. Whereas other states have a bicameral system, with a Senate and a House of Representatives, Senator George Norris campaigned for change and the state has had just one, the Unicameral, since 1934. In addition to this, the state is also unusual in that it has non-partisan elections, where members don't stand as members of political parties.

Around the same time as Senator Norris' campaigning, Nebraska was heavily affected by the Dust Bowl. Thousands of people moved out of the state due to the drought and high winds destroying farmland. In the decades since, Nebraska's economy has evolved to become less dependent on agriculture, and Warren Buffett, one of the richest people in the world, was born and raised in Omaha.

Offutt Air Force Base, near the city of Bellevue, became the headquarters for the Strategic Air Command in 1946, which helped create jobs and grow the population in and around the Omaha metropolitan area, too. This also meant that it played an important role in the Cold War. ★

> **"Nebraska is unique for its unicameral legislature"**

Two trains from 1869 (l) and 1926 (r) exhibited in Omaha in 1927

## NEBRASKA'S MOST FAMOUS EXPORT?

**Enjoyed by many throughout the US, the Reuben sandwich has its roots in 1920s Nebraska**

It's said that the popular Reuben sandwich is thought to have originated in Omaha. The Lithuanian-born Jewish grocer Reuben Kulakofsky asked for a corned beef and sauerkraut sandwich at his weekly poker game at the Blackstone Hotel in the 1920s. The son of the hotel's owner worked in the kitchen and made Kulakofsky the first Reuben by adding Swiss cheese and thousand island dressing and putting the ingredients on rye.

They put it on the hotel's lunch menu and a former employee won the national sandwich idea contest with the recipe, giving it greater prominence throughout the US.

Images on spread: Getty; Wiki Commons / NicoFlynn

STATE NO.

36

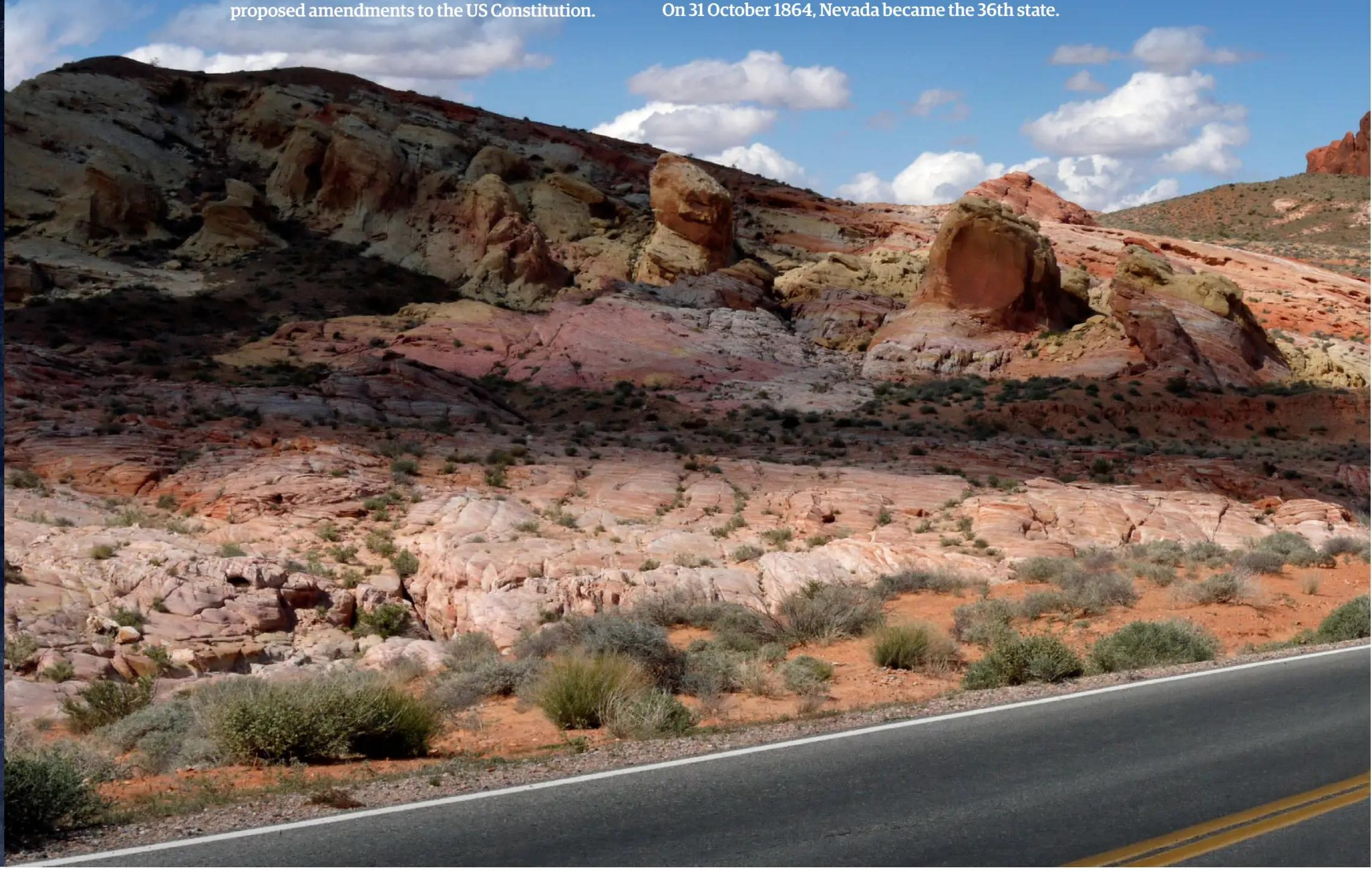
# NEVADA

## How a desolate desert state became a neon oasis of gambling and entertainment

Words By Nikole Robinson

**While it had been the 1859 discovery of silver at the Comstock Lode that brought a rush of migration to what would officially become the Territory of Nevada in 1861, the upcoming presidential election of 1864 saw Nevada swiftly upgraded to statehood just three years later.** This urgency was spurred by Abraham Lincoln's need to be reelected for a second term during the ongoing Civil War. Not only would the Union gain access to the territory's vast mineral wealth, but three electoral votes would be secured for the incumbent president, along with support for Lincoln's proposed amendments to the US Constitution.

Despite the territory's population falling short of the requirement for statehood, Nevada's strategic importance led to an enabling act being passed by Congress in March 1864, which would grant state status upon completion of a constitution. After much deliberation over its terms, particularly taxation of the silver mines, the constitution was approved on 7 September 1864 with a total of 10,375 votes. Copies sent by land and sea never made it to Washington D.C., resulting in the entire constitution being sent via the longest and most expensive telegram to date – 16,543 words costing $4,303.27, around $88,000 today – arriving on Lincoln's desk just in time for the crucial election. On 31 October 1864, Nevada became the 36th state.



## BIO

**Nickname:** The Silver State
**Anthem:** 'Home Means Nevada'
**Admitted to the Union:** 31 October 1864
**Capital:** Carson City
**Population:** 3,267,467
**Sports franchises:** NFL: Las Vegas Raiders

From 1951 to 1992, the Nevada Test Site performed 928 nuclear tests

Nevada's mining industry continued to flourish throughout the 1860s, particularly around Virginia City and the Comstock Lode, which saw rapid development. Further discoveries of silver and gold deposits saw the state's borders expand into the east and south in 1866 and 1867 respectively, taking land from Utah and Arizona and forming the shape of the state we know today. Its southern border now reached the Colorado River, granting access to another precious resource - water. Irrigation systems improved, transforming the arid landscape for agriculture and ranching, and new railroad infrastructure provided easier access to boom towns springing up across the state.

> "Nevada's strategic importance led to an enabling act being passed"

The Fire Wave, a striped sandstone formation in the Valley of Fire State Park

Images: Getty; Adobe Stock

Construction of the Central Pacific Railroad gave birth to Reno in 1868. Its location at a key crossing over the Truckee River made it a favourable spot for a railroad townsite. By 1872, Reno had become a junction between the transcontinental line and the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, providing a faster route to both the riches of Virginia City and Nevada's capital, Carson City. But the mining of silver wasn't without its problems. With the Comstock's production already in decline in the 1870s, the US government's switch to the gold standard and decision to no longer mint silver coins was a final blow. Unemployment skyrocketed, and many mining towns were left deserted. Cattle and sheep ranching would become the main economic driver of a struggling Nevada until 1900, when a new silver discovery was made at Tonopah, followed by gold strikes in Goldfield in 1902 and Rhyolite in 1904.

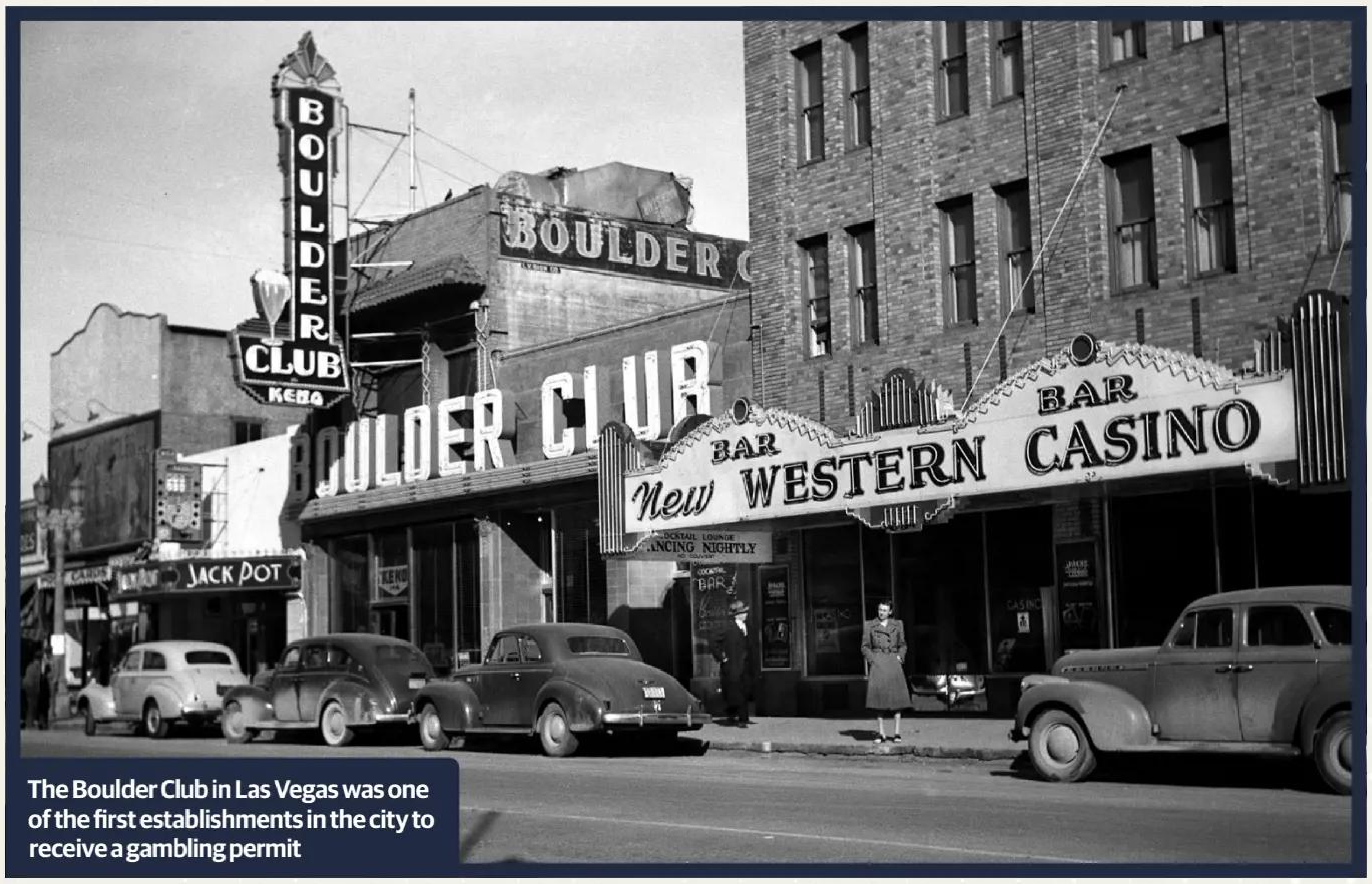
New railroads were constructed heading south, and like Reno decades before, Las Vegas would emerge along the Union Pacific Railroad in 1905, though it was still years from becoming the paradise of today. Gambling already had a long history in the state, with the first prospectors bringing games of chance to the frontier. Legislation passed in 1869 had decriminalised most forms of gambling, but reforms in 1909 saw its abolition. This, along with prohibition, saw the rise of speakeasies and backroom gambling in Reno and Vegas, tied to organised crime.

> **" Legislation passed in 1869 had decriminalised most forms of gambling"**

The Hoover Dam provides hydroelectric power for Nevada, Arizona and California

Joining World War I in Europe created a rise in demand for meat and minerals, but the Great Depression soon reared its ugly head. In 1931, wide-open gambling returned to Nevada, as well as a law requiring a six-week residency for divorce – the lowest in the nation. Unhappy couples flocked to Reno, bolstering the economy through lawyers' fees and six weeks of accommodation at hotels or 'divorce ranches', spending time in the casinos while they waited to untie the knot. Meanwhile, south of Las Vegas, construction of the Hoover Dam brought thousands of labourers to the area for the biggest infrastructure project in US history. As gambling was forbidden in Boulder City, built to house the workers, they made the short train ride to Vegas to spend their hard-earned money.

The completion of the Hoover Dam in 1936 meant water and power were plentiful, especially for nearby Vegas, which saw its popularity boom. Lavish resorts and casinos spread across the Strip over the coming decades, while updated taxation, licensing and ownership laws legitimised gaming and distanced Nevada from its criminal past and ties to the mob. Flashing lights, neon signs and extravagance became synonymous with Las Vegas, and soon the state of Nevada was making more from gambling and tourism than any other industry – even when silver



The Boulder Club in Las Vegas was one of the first establishments in the city to receive a gambling permit

## AREA 51

**Surrounded by intrigue and conspiracy, this Air Force base holds many secrets**

Built on federal land bordering Nellis Air Force Range and the Nevada Test Site, where the infamous nuclear tests of the Cold War era were carried out from 1951, Area 51 is one of the most mysterious military facilities in the US. Operational since 1955 and administered by Edwards Air Force Base, all research and testing is highly classified. As such, rumours of spacecraft, alien technology and government-wide conspiracies have captured the public's attention. Publicly acknowledged by the CIA in 2013, the site officially called Homey Airport is used to test experimental aircraft such as the U-2 spy plane. The the SR-71 Blackbird, A-12 Archangel and F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighters were also flown at the base. While sightings of these advanced aircraft are likely to blame for the alleged UFO activity, the high security and secrecy surrounding Area 51 continue to keep its legacy as an alien hotspot alive, attracting thousands of visitors to the surrounding area.

An aerial view of the top-secret US Air Force facility

production had been at its peak. Entertainment became another huge draw, and soon big names such as Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra took up residency, performing to packed crowds and bringing in even more revenue.

By the end of the 1970s, Nevada had become the fastest growing state in the nation. The construction of new homes, hotels and casinos ensured there was plenty of work available and reinforced the now-thriving economy. Luxurious themed casinos and resorts became increasingly popular throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and industry expanded into theme parks, stage shows, celebrity-chef restaurants and nightclubs. While the 2008 recession, increasing popularity of online gambling and COVID-19 pandemic have all impacted Nevada in recent years, it continues to draw in millions of visitors from around the globe and shows no signs of slowing down. ★

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
THE
NEVADA CLUB
HAS PAID NEARLY
$1,500,000.00
IN JACKPOTS TO NEARLY
A QUARTER MILLION PLAYERS

Slot machines at the Nevada Club Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, c. 1955

WELCOME
TO Fabulous
LAS VEGAS
NEVADA

The iconic 'Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas' sign was erected in 1959

Images: Getty; Adobe Stock

STATE NO.
9

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

It might be one of the smallest states, but New Hampshire was one of the first

**Words Adam England**

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Granite State
**Anthem:** 'Old New Hampshire'
**Admitted to the Union:** 21 June 1788
**Capital:** Concord
**Population:** 1,409,032
**Sports franchises:** N/A

★ ★ ★

**New Hampshire became the ninth state to join the union in 1788, one of the Thirteen Colonies that broke away from the British Crown during the American Revolution.**

In 1832, the Republic of Indian Stream was founded along its border with Canada, and three years later the state annexed it, which ultimately led to a diplomatic crisis between the US and Canada, then under British rule. The issue was resolved in 1842 by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

The state's economy was primarily based on agriculture before industries such as shipbuilding and textiles gained prominence. The first factories in the state were water-powered textile mills, transforming New Hampshire into a thriving industrial centre, with cities like Manchester and Nashua leading the way.

### New Hampshire's political legacy

In the mid-1800s, New Hampshire became a centre for abolitionism, and nearly 32,000 soldiers from the state joined the Union army during the US Civil War, supported by local factories producing uniforms, shoes, and rifles.

The Free Soil Party, led by John P. Hale, focused on opposing the expansion of slavery and was particularly popular in the state, while the American Party, which emerged partly in response to Irish and German Catholic immigration, achieved a landslide victory in the 1855 gubernatorial election.

Franklin Pierce, a former senator from New Hampshire, became the state's only President, serving from 1853 to 1857. Decades later, in 1920, New Hampshire held the first presidential primary of all US states, a tradition that has persisted for over a

Voter fills out a ballot in the New Hampshire primaries, the first in the US.

century. As the first primary, a strong performance by a candidate can influence subsequent primaries, as seen when Dwight D. Eisenhower won the Republican primary in 1952 and Jimmy Carter secured the Democratic primary in 1976.

## Moving into the contemporary era

At the turn of the 20th century, the state's population began to grow as French Canadian and Polish communities migrated there. However, industry started to decline in the early 20th century due to increased competition from the southern United States and the effects of the Great Depression.

Tourism increased during that era, too, with people flocking to the White Mountains, the lakes, and its 18 miles of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean.

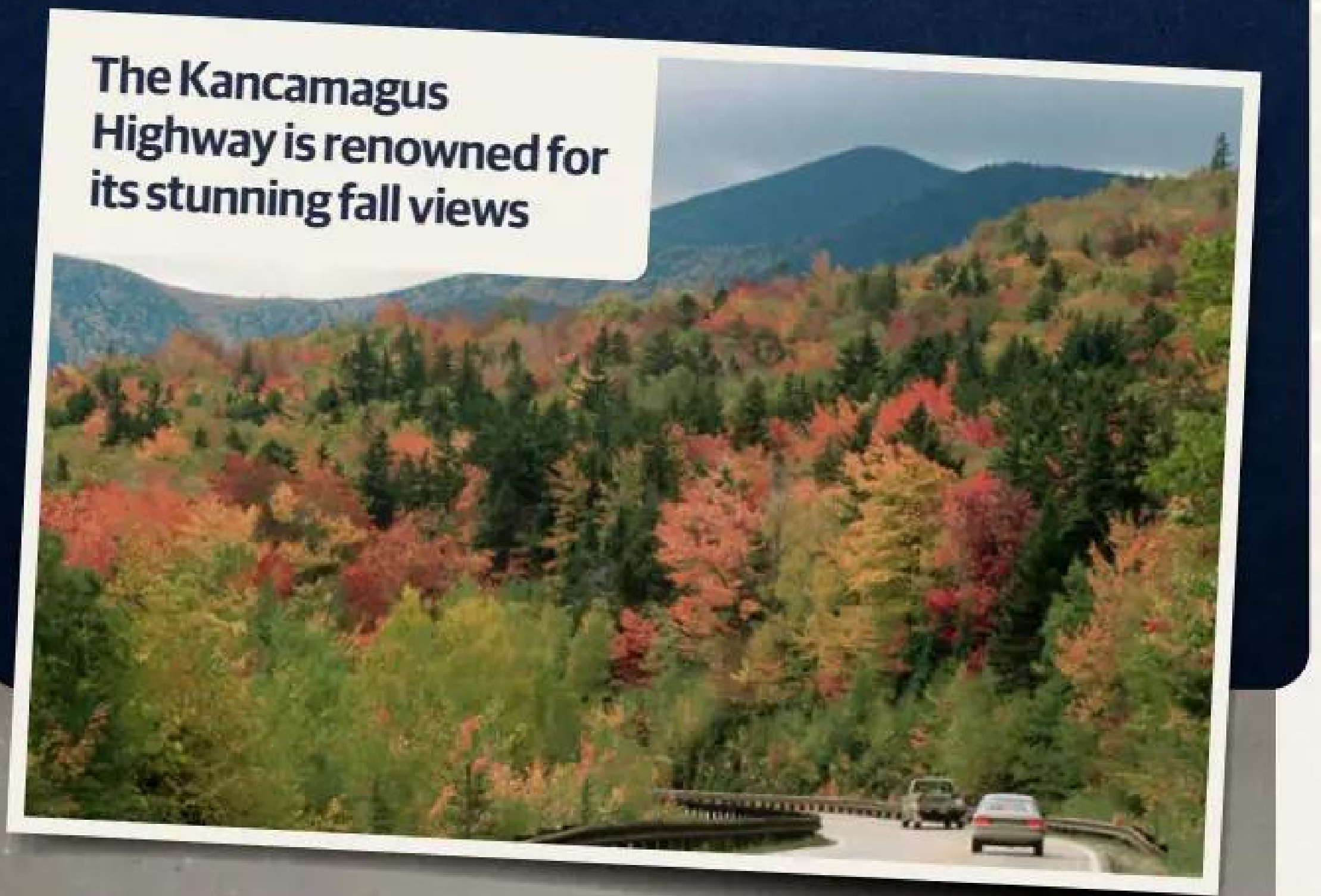
Over the years, New Hampshire has become more closely connected to Boston and its surrounding region. It has also developed into a significant centre for technology, a trend that began with companies like Sanders Associates and Digital Equipment Corporation in the mid-20th century. ★

## DRIVING ACROSS THE KANCAMAGUS

**For the archetypal New England fall scene, this highway can't be beaten**

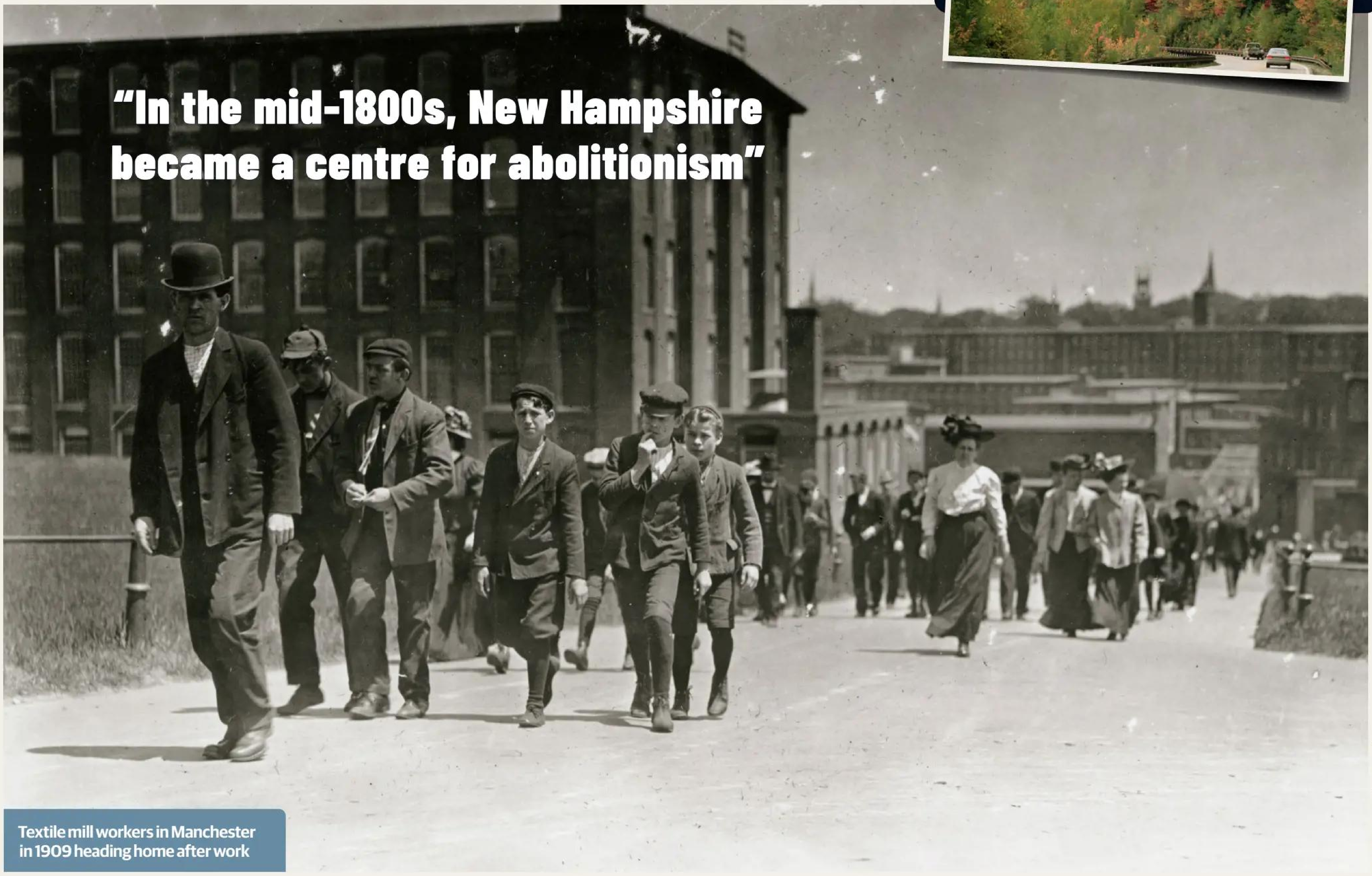
Known for its views, particularly in the fall, the Kancamagus Highway is the eastern part of New Hampshire Route 112, a highway that runs through the state from east to west. It's named after Kancamagus, a chief of the Pennacook Confederacy who ruled over part of what's now southern New Hampshire in the 19th century.

It opened in 1959, linking two stretches of road, and connects the towns of Lincoln and Conway via the White Mountains. It's a popular drive for tourists in September and October in particular due to its views of fall foliage, and there's all manner of waterfalls, hiking trails, and scenic viewpoints.


The Kancamagus Highway is renowned for its stunning fall views

Images: Wiki Commons / NicoFlynn

"In the mid-1800s, New Hampshire became a centre for abolitionism"


Textile mill workers in Manchester in 1909 heading home after work

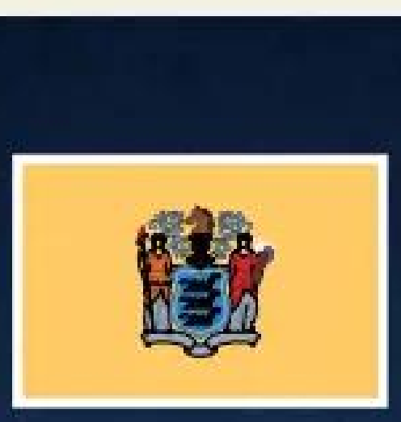
Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
3

# NEW JERSEY

## From factories to famous faces, New Jersey has shaped politics, industry and culture

**Words Neil Crossley**



### BIO

**Nickname:** The Garden State
**Anthem:** N/A
**Admitted to the Union:** 18 December 1787
**Capital:** Trenton
**Population:** 9,500,851
**Sports franchises:** NHL: New Jersey Devils

★ ★ ★

**New Jersey was the third state to adopt the Constitution and the first to approve the Bill of Rights.** It also played a major role in creating the structure of the new United States government.

At the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, New Jersey delegate William Paterson put forward the 'New Jersey Plan'. His proposals would contribute to the establishment of the US Senate and ensured that every state, regardless of its size, would have equal representation.

New Jersey was the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. In 1791, founding father Alexander Hamilton and his associates selected an area of land along the Passaic River to build Paterson, the first planned industrial city.

The river powered the new city's textile factories and paved the way for New Jersey becoming an industrial powerhouse. The state embraced the building of canals and roads, as well as the first steam railroad in America, built in Hoboken in 1825.

Despite being situated at the midpoint between the northern and southern sections of the country, New Jersey sided with the Union during the American Civil War and provided significant manpower and resources to its cause.

The New Jersey State House in Trenton

Pier C Park is located along the Hudson River in Hoboken

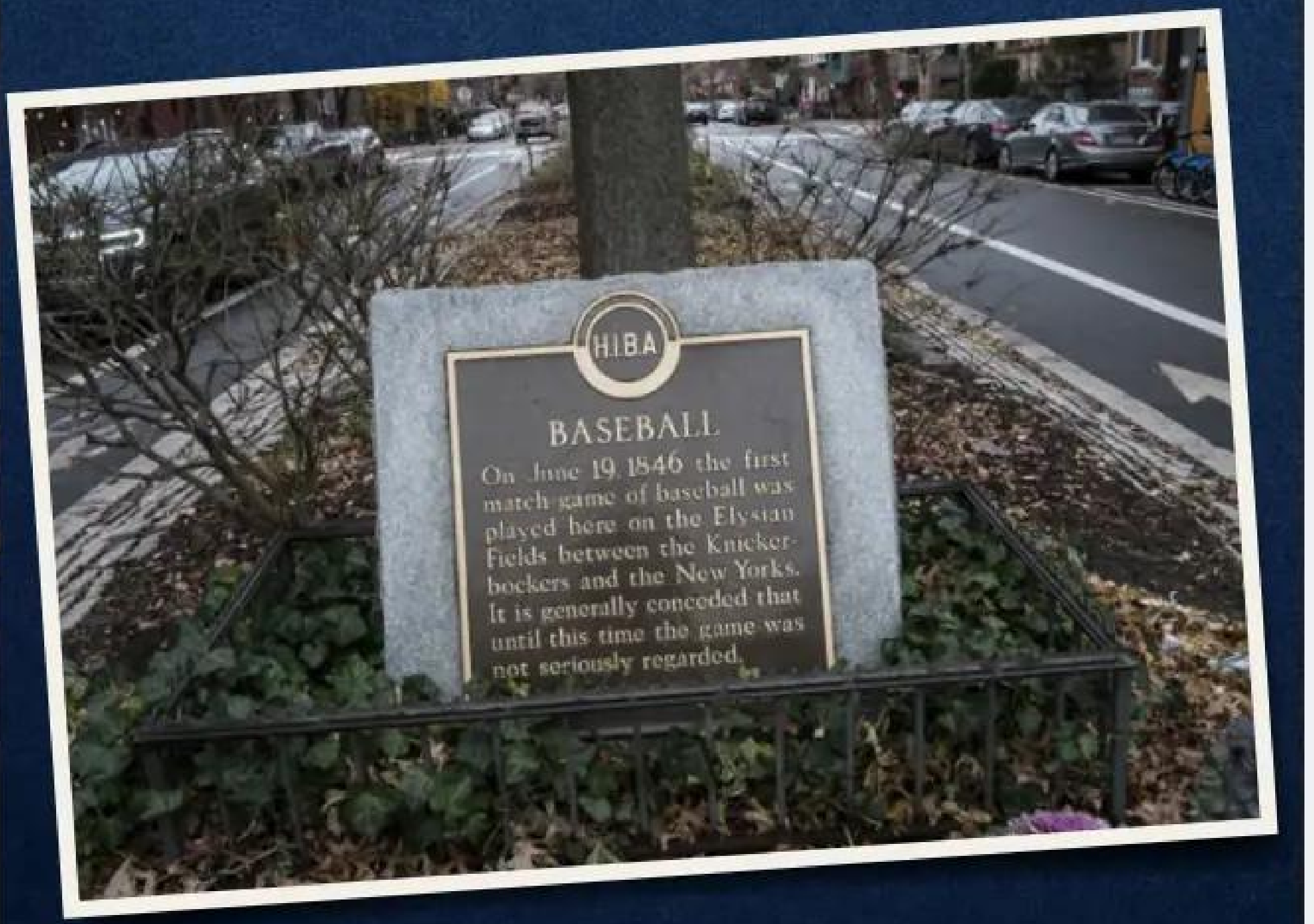
## THE BIRTH OF BASEBALL

### How New Jersey hosted the first ever official baseball game

Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey was the setting for the first officially recorded, organised baseball game using what are considered modern rules. The game took place on 19 June 1846 and consisted of the New York Knickerbockers versus the New York Nine.

The New York Nine won by an impressive 23-1. As well as being the first officially recorded fixture, the game is significant because it was played under Knickerbocker's rules, which helped to standardise the game and laid the foundations for baseball as it is played today.

While the Knickerbocker's code was used as the basis, the rules of modern baseball continued to evolve over the next half-century.



HIBA
BASEBALL
On June 19 1846 the first match game of baseball was played here on the Elysian fields between the Knickerbockers and the New Yorks. It is generally conceded that until this time the game was not seriously regarded.

Liberty State Park in Jersey City

Asbury Park is a seaside city in New Jersey

But its humanitarian endeavours fell well short. New Jersey became the last of the Northern states to completely abolish slavery in 1866. 142 years later, in 2008, the legislature of New Jersey passed a resolution of official apology for slavery, becoming the third state to do so.

In the late 19th century, innovation flourished in the state. Inventor Thomas Edison established his first laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, and in 1876 built a larger one in West Orange, New Jersey. Edison was granted 1,093 US patents and established a pioneering research and development enterprise in which the light bulb, sound recordings, motion pictures, commercial electric service and other innovations were invented or improved.

> "Through both World Wars, New Jersey was a hub for war production, especially naval construction"

The 20th century saw New Jersey developing at a rapid pace. In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to connect Jersey City to Manhattan, in 1933 the first drive-in movie was shown in Camden, and in 1951, the New Jersey Turnpike opened. Through both World Wars, New Jersey was a hub for war production, especially naval construction.

In this third decade of the 21st century, New Jersey scores highly in terms of states with high quality of life. It is also one of the most ethnically diverse.

Culturally too, it has much to shout about. New Jersey has produced some of the greats across the arts: Frank Sinatra from Hoboken; Bruce Springsteen from Long Branch; Meryl Streep from Summit; Whitney Houston from Newark and Jack Nicholson from Neptune City.

While inevitably eclipsed in the public's consciousness by its high profile neighbour New York City, New Jersey retains a rich and enduring legacy. ★

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.

## 47

# NEW MEXICO

### A vast and visionary collection of landscapes that have inspired countless innovators make up this astonishing southwestern state

Words April Madden

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Land of Enchantment

**Anthem:** 'O Fair New Mexico'

**Admitted to the Union:** 6 January 1912

**Capital:** Santa Fe

**Population:** 2,130,256

**Sports franchises:** N/A

★ ★ ★

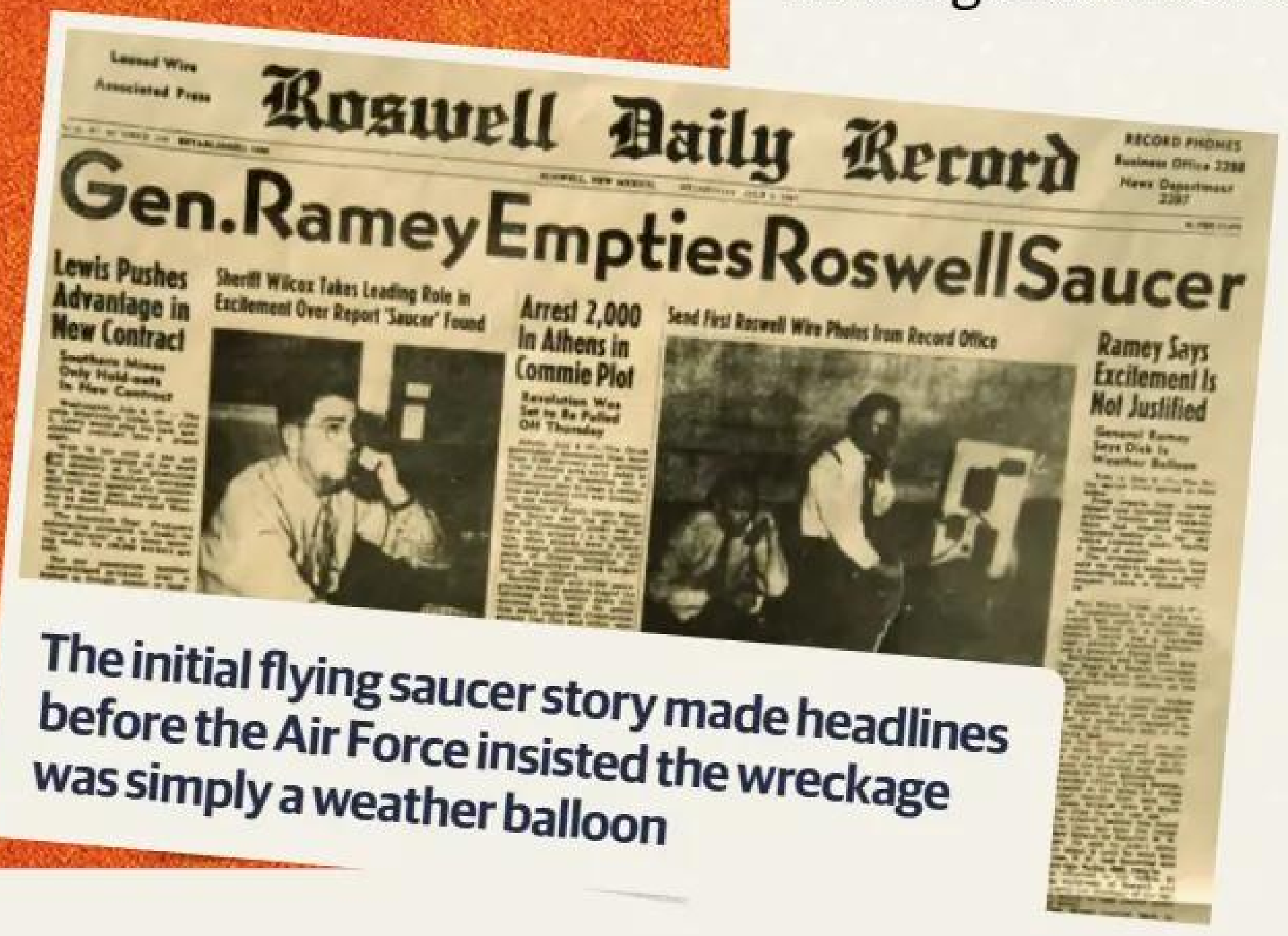
**Though it's often thought of as arid wasteland as far as the eye can see, New Mexico, with its terrain and climate ranging from forested heights to tawny deserts, wide grasslands, mountains, badlands and tumbling river gorges, is a miniature world within a single state.** Its population is as varied and diverse as its landscapes and its flora and fauna. It boasts a rich and deep Native American history as well as heritage from the 16th century Spanish conquistadors, making it one of only seven majority-minority states, including the largest state population percentage of Hispanic and Latinx people and the second largest population percentage of Native Americans. Its Wild West history as a flashpoint between Native Americans, Mexico and the nascent United States – it borders Texas, Arizona, Colorado and Utah as well as Mexico proper – and its extensive pastureland make it the acme of cowboy country. It was a borderland state constantly in flux and constantly on the move, its territory hotly contested by friends and foes alike. Ceded to the US by Mexico during the Mexican-American War (1846-48), Texas almost immediately tried to snap up everything east of the Rio Grande. California also sought a piece of the New Mexico pie, as did the State of Deseret, a would-be religiously governed state proposed by the Church of the Latter Day Saints in what is now Utah. Meanwhile, Native American and Hispanic Nuevo Mexicans suffered under the heavy-handed regime of the new American governance. More land was added to New Mexico territory during the Gadesden Purchase in 1853, but it took until 1912 for New Mexico to finally gain full statehood.

The World War II both galvanised Nuevo Mexicans into action – the state produced more volunteers for combat (and more casualties) per capita than any other state – and transformed some of its wildest landscapes. It's home to Los Alamos, the keystone of the Manhattan Project that built the atomic bomb. The first bomb was tested at the Trinity Site, now part of the White Sands Missile Range, where the US still tests its deadliest ordnance. With such advanced research facilities making their homes there it's no wonder that modern New Mexico has been a flourishing centre of technological research ever since – Microsoft was founded there in 1975. Perhaps it's this innovation that apparently attracts the attention of the otherworldly – it is, after all, the home of the notorious Roswell – or maybe the vast landscapes that beguiled such artistic luminaries as the great American modernist Georgia O'Keefe contain within them the keys that unlock the doors of perception, making New Mexico a home for visionaries and dreamers alike. ★

## THE ROSWELL INCIDENT

**New Mexico's most famous visitors?**

In 1947, the US was gripped by two imperative fascinations. For the military-minded this was the threat of Soviet spy planes, atomic tests and missile launches. For everyone else, it was the Flying Saucer Craze. In an America newly embarked on the strangeness of the Cold War and where new types of airborne craft were being trialled daily, it was no wonder people thought they saw UFOs. In Roswell, New Mexico, the downing of what the army claimed was a mere weather balloon collided with science fiction (and maybe even science fact). A rapidly retracted press release initially claimed the Air Force was in possession of a 'flying disc' before doubling down on the weather balloon story. But in 1978, a retired officer alleged that the mystery object that came down in Roswell was in fact an alien craft, dead (or dying) pilot and all, which the Air Force promptly scooped up and squirrelled away at the notorious Area 51 in the Nevada desert.



Leased Wire Associated Press

Roswell Daily Record

RECORD PHONES
Business Office 2288
News Department 2287

Gen. Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer

Lewis Pushes Advantage in New Contract

Southern Mines Only Hold-outs In New Contract

Sheriff Wilcox Takes Leading Role in Excitement Over Report 'Saucer' Found

Arrest 2,000 In Athens in Commie Plot

Revolution Was Set to Be Pulled Off Thursday

Send First Roswell Wire Photos from Record Office

Ramey Says Excitement Is Not Justified

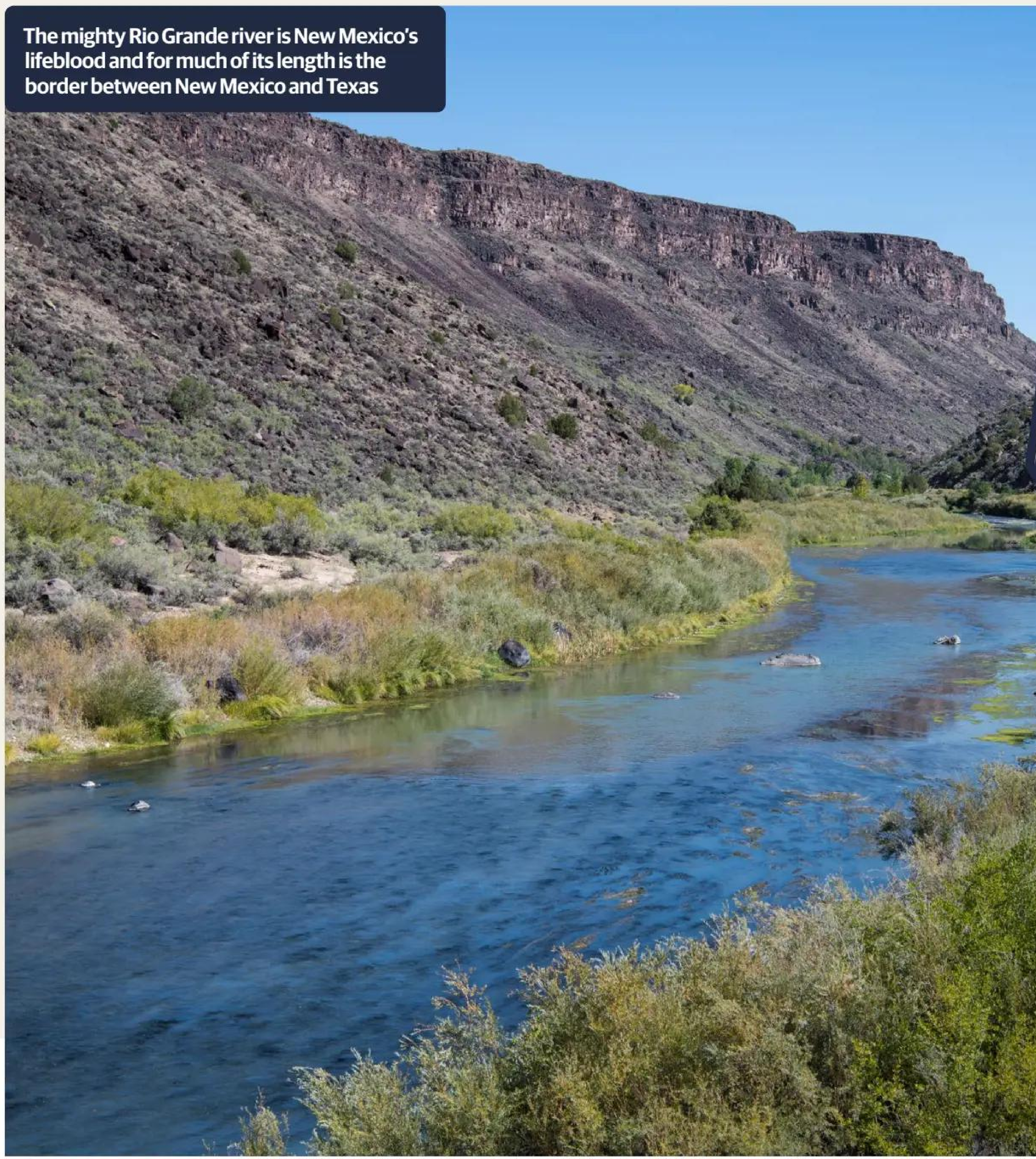
General Ramey Says Disk Is Weather Balloon

The initial flying saucer story made headlines before the Air Force insisted the wreckage was simply a weather balloon

LOS ALAMOS
PROJECT
MAIN GATE
PASSES MUST BE
PRESENTED TO
GUARDS
SECURE PASSES HERE
POS No.

The main gate to the Los Alamos Project site

> "It boasts a rich and deep Native American history"



The mighty Rio Grande river is New Mexico's lifeblood and for much of its length is the border between New Mexico and Texas

Visionary American artist Georgia O'Keefe was inspired by New Mexico, where she lived and worked. Santa Fe is now home to a museum dedicated to her work

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

### STATE NO. 11

# NEW YORK

New York is the undisputed financial centre of the United States of America

**Words Marc DeSantis**

**Founded in the early 17th century as a Dutch colony, 'New Amsterdam' was taken over by England and renamed New York City in 1665.** This was the beginning of what would become the city's, and the colony's, transformation into one of the most important states in the United States, with New York State being the 11th to ratify the US Constitution in 1788. Ever since, the State of New York has been at the forefront of the nation's economic and cultural development. And such was New York City's prominence that it was the country's initial capital, before it was transferred to Philadelphia, and thence to Washington, D.C.

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Empire State
**Anthem:** 'I Love New York'
**Admitted to the Union:** 26 July 1788
**Capital:** Albany
**Population:** 19,867,248
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: New York Giants, New York Jets, Buffalo Bills
NBA: Brooklyn Nets, New York Knicks
MLB: New York Mets, New York Yankees
NHL: New York Rangers, New York Islanders, Buffalo Sabres

★ ★ ★

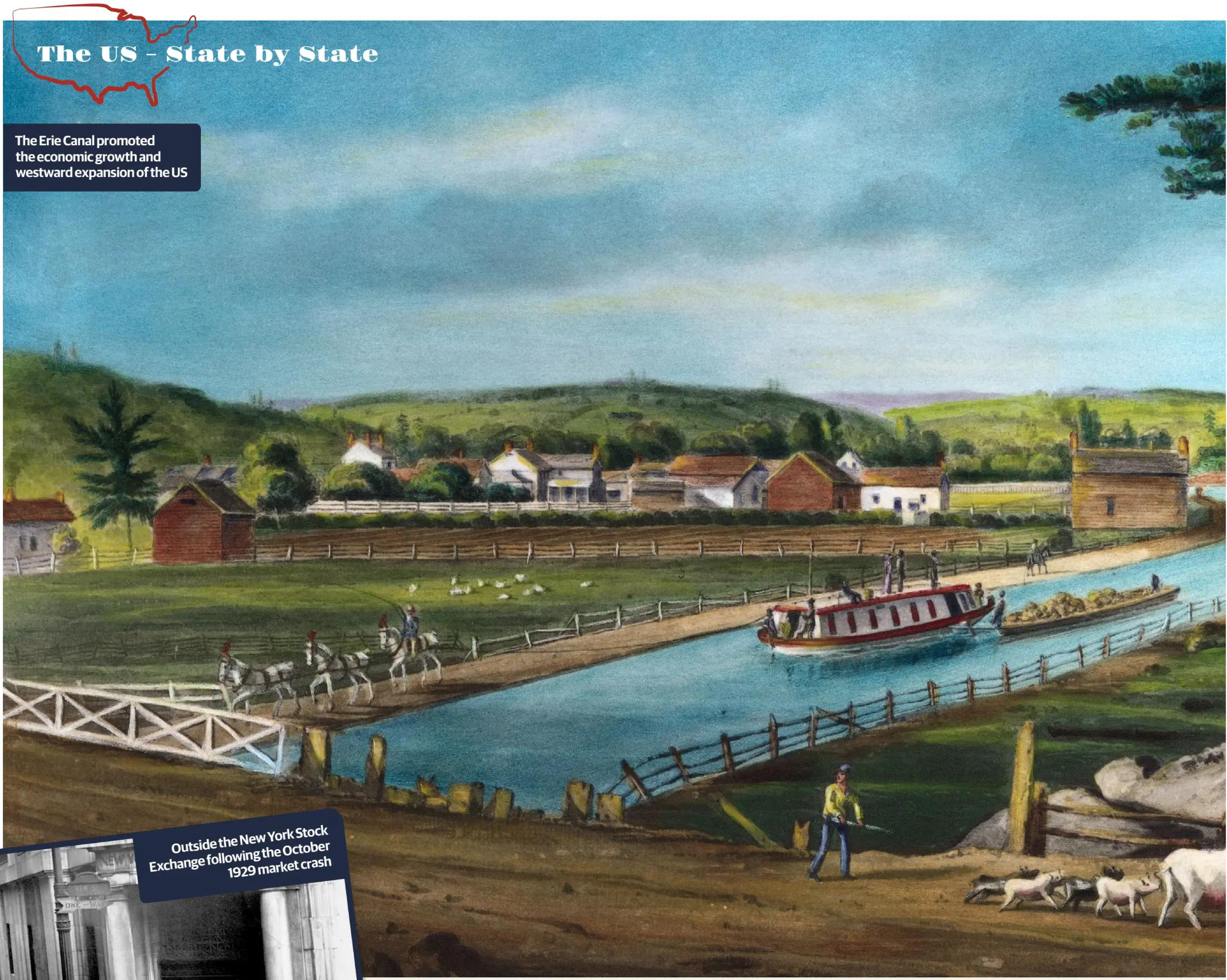
## The Father of Canals

In the early 19th century, moving goods by wagons along roads was expensive and slow. Some believed that a waterway that connected the American East with the lands of the western interior would be of immense value. Their vision ultimately became the Erie Canal. The canal's plan of hydraulic engineering was an audacious one. They had to dig an artificial watercourse over the 363 miles (584 km) that ran from Albany on the Hudson River in eastern New York State to Lake Erie, far to the west. The building of the Erie Canal, begun in 1817, required money in large amounts. It was financed by the Canal Fund, which issued bonds,

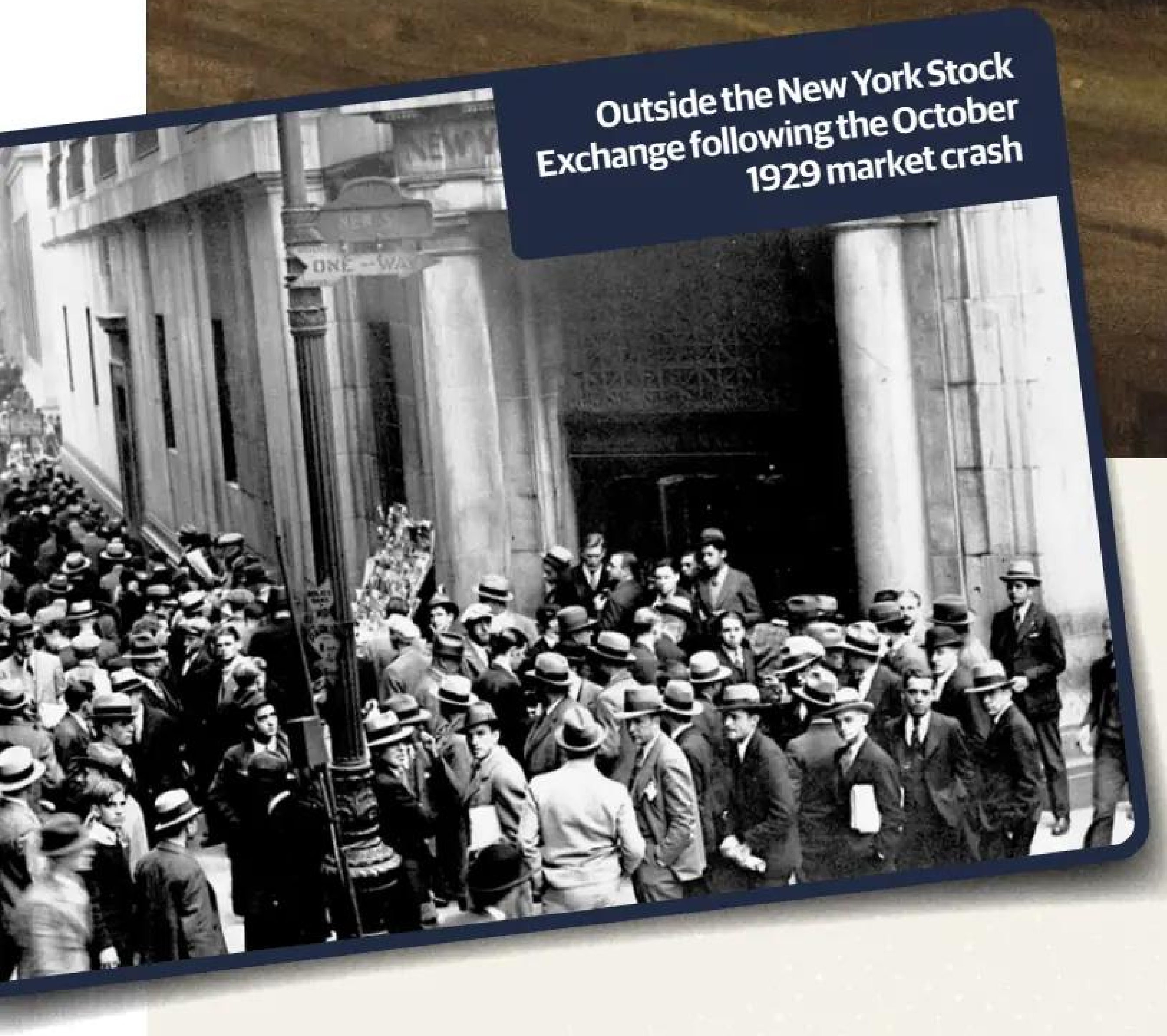
**Main** The famed Brooklyn Bridge links the island of Manhattan to the borough of Brooklyn

The iconic Empire State Building opened in 1931

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock



The Erie Canal promoted the economic growth and westward expansion of the US



Outside the New York Stock Exchange following the October 1929 market crash

and these were acquired by both American and international investors.

The State of New York possessed geographical advantages that helped make it an early commercial star of the US. It sat amidst the Atlantic Ocean, with New York City in its south; the 315-mile-long (507 km) Hudson River that ran from its source, Henderson Lake, southward to New York City; to the north was the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. In the west, lay Lake Erie. A canal linking the Atlantic Ocean via the Hudson River to Lake Erie, and ultimately to the Great Lakes beyond and the Mississippi River itself, proved to be one of enormous economic benefit. The movement of freight alone was much cheaper, since transportation by water was twenty-five times less expensive than if carted by road.

The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, ushered in many important consequences for the US. It cemented the commercial primacy of the Northern states over the Southern states, with their slave-worked plantations. The American West would largely be settled by migrants transiting westward via the Canal.

> ***"The State of New York possessed geographical advantages that helped make it an early commercial star of the US"***

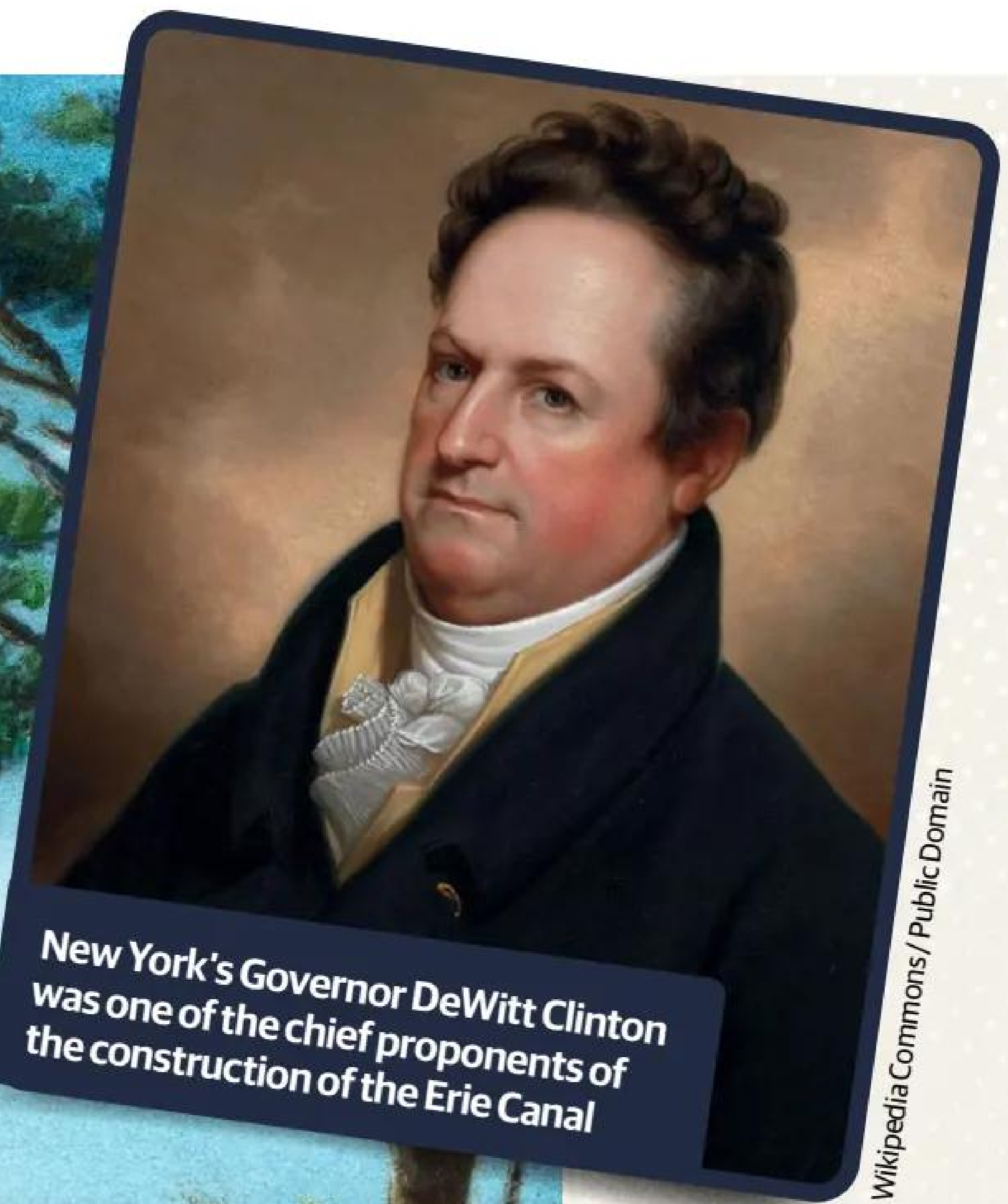
By 1853, this man-made waterway had eclipsed the Mississippi River in the amount of western goods that flowed over it. Some 62% of western goods heading east went by the Canal, as opposed to 29% on the Mississippi. Not for nothing has the Erie Canal been called 'The Father of Canals'.

## New York and the US Economy

As a major artery of trade, the Erie Canal enabled New York City to extend its commercial dominance over the young nation. Yet another outcome of its construction was that it helped solidify Wall Street, New York City's financial district, as a very advanced capital market. The monetary acumen acquired in funding the Canal project would be later used to finance the construction of railroads, bankroll the Union during the Civil War, and underpin the growth of burgeoning American industry afterward.

It was not all unvarnished success, however. Wall Street's worst moment came on 24 October 1929. A stock market crash set off a terrible series of events

Images: Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock



New York's Governor DeWitt Clinton was one of the chief proponents of the construction of the Erie Canal

Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

that led the nation into the decade-long Great Depression, an extended period of economic misery. Wall Street ultimately survived this catastrophe, and New York has retained its place as the centre of US finance to this day.

## New York Defends Democracy

New York State's economic power was not limited to finance. Its dynamism was seen in the aviation realm in the early 20th century. Aviator Charles Lindbergh took off for his historic solo flight across the Atlantic to France from a Long Island field in 1927.

In manufacturing, Grumman and Republic Aviation, builders respectively of the F6F Hellcat and P-47 Thunderbolt fighters, provided tens of thousands of these machines toward achieving Allied victory in World War II. During the Cold War, Grumman delivered the 'Top Gun' F-14 Tomcat fighter to the US Navy, and it also built the Lunar Module for NASA's Apollo missions to the Moon.

The contribution of New York to national defence was not limited to aerospace. Though today it might not be thought to be a site of shipbuilding, in decades past it was. The USS *Arizona*, sunk at Pearl Harbor, was built at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as was the USS *Missouri*, upon the deck of which Imperial Japan formally surrendered on 2 September 1945.

## Gateway to America

New York City has long been one of the foremost entry points for European immigrants arriving in the United States. For many of these people, their first experience of America was a small parcel of land that lay in New York Bay: Ellis Island. In operation from 1892 to 1954, vast numbers of immigrants debarked there, hopeful that they would be admitted. The height of the immigrant influx to Ellis Island came during the years 1900 to 1915, with 1.2 million coming in 1907 alone. The reasons why immigrants came to America are much the same that still drives so many to make the journey, though Ellis Island is no longer a working reception site. They sought better lives for themselves and their children. Economic

Sagamore Hill, situated in Cove Neck on Long Island, was President Theodore Roosevelt's home

Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

Columbia University, located in New York City, is one of the finest in the US

## LADY LIBERTY

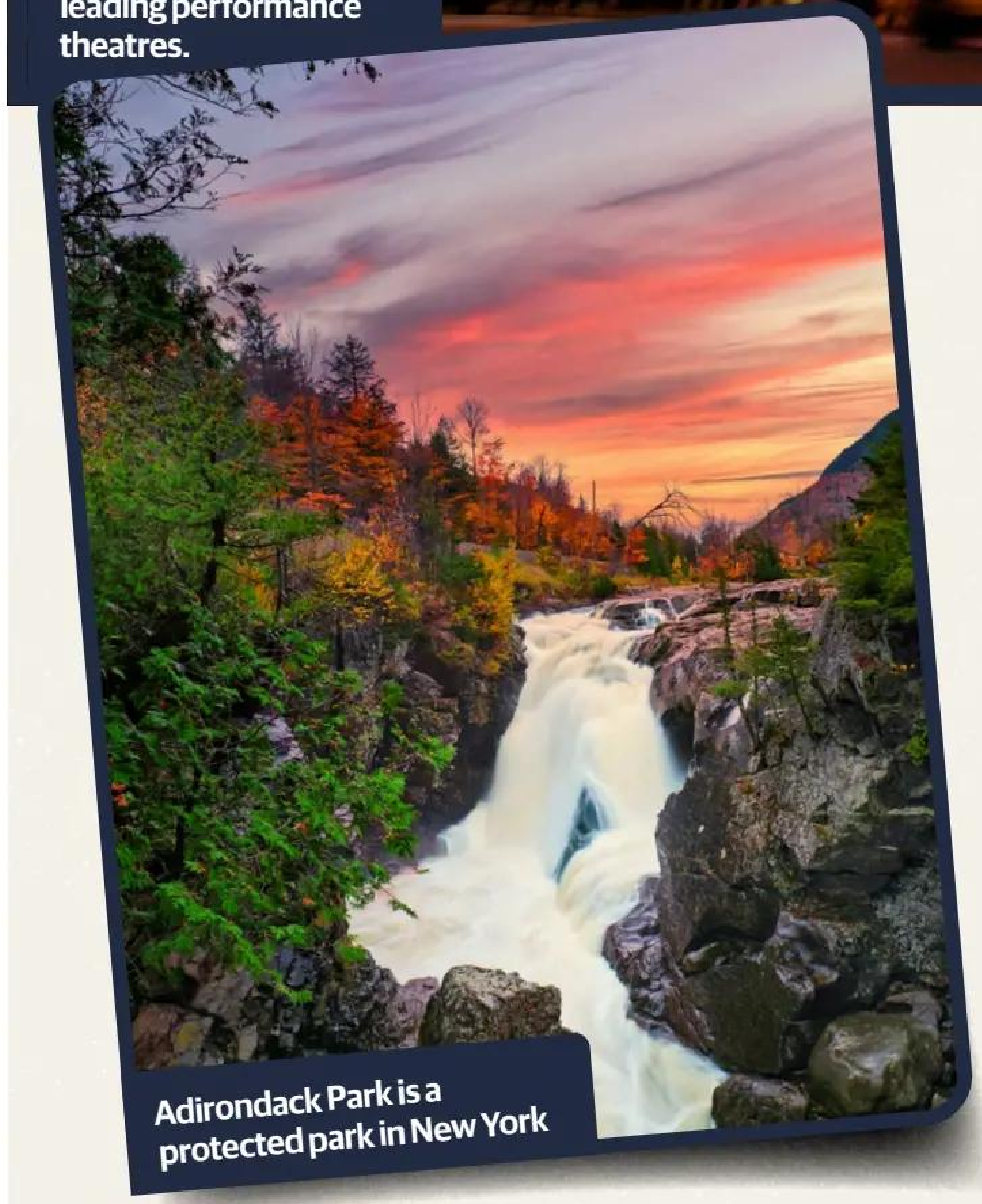
**New York's iconic Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French people to the US**

Few landmarks say 'New York' more than the Statue of Liberty. This extraordinary monument was the creation of the brilliant French sculptor, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904). The formal name of the statue now sited in New York Harbor is 'The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World'. Bertholdi's vision was inspired by a massive ancient Greek statue, the Colossus of Rhodes, now long-lost. As with the Colossus, the Statue of Liberty would also be placed at the entrance to a harbour.

The statue was modeled on the Roman goddess of liberty, Libertas, and stands a little over 46m (151 ft) high, not inclusive of the statue's immense base. She is made of hammered copper plates attached to an internal iron support structure, and is green today because her plating has oxidized over the years. Construction began in France in the 1870s and was completed in the next decade. Lady Liberty, as she is informally known, proudly bears aloft a torch that is symbolic of enlightenment. The Statue has also become closely linked with immigration from abroad, and is also known as the 'Mother of Exiles' for that reason.

**Right** The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on 28 October 1886

Radio City Music Hall is one of New York City's leading performance theatres.



Adirondack Park is a protected park in New York

conditions in their home countries may have been difficult, or worse.

New York City, and the State, at large were shaped and reshaped by the many waves of peoples who came from across the sea. The population increased, and the groups that settled in and around New York City, or moved on to other cities and states, contributed richly to it and the nation at large.

## New York Today

New York City in the 21st century remains a global centre of finance, as it has been for so long, and is also one for high tech businesses. The arts, in the form of its theatres on Broadway, or its many excellent museums, are world class. The city boasts renowned institutions of higher education such as Columbia University and New York University. It benefits too, as it long has, by the many immigrants who still go there seeking better lives.

In New York State more broadly, excellent wine is made on Long Island, and also in the Finger Lakes region in the state's west. Skiing in the Adirondack Mountains, in the north, is a very popular pastime. Interestingly, the sprawling and magnificent Adirondack Park covers about one-third of the entire landmass of the State. ★

> ***"The city boasts renowned institutions of higher education such as Columbia University"***

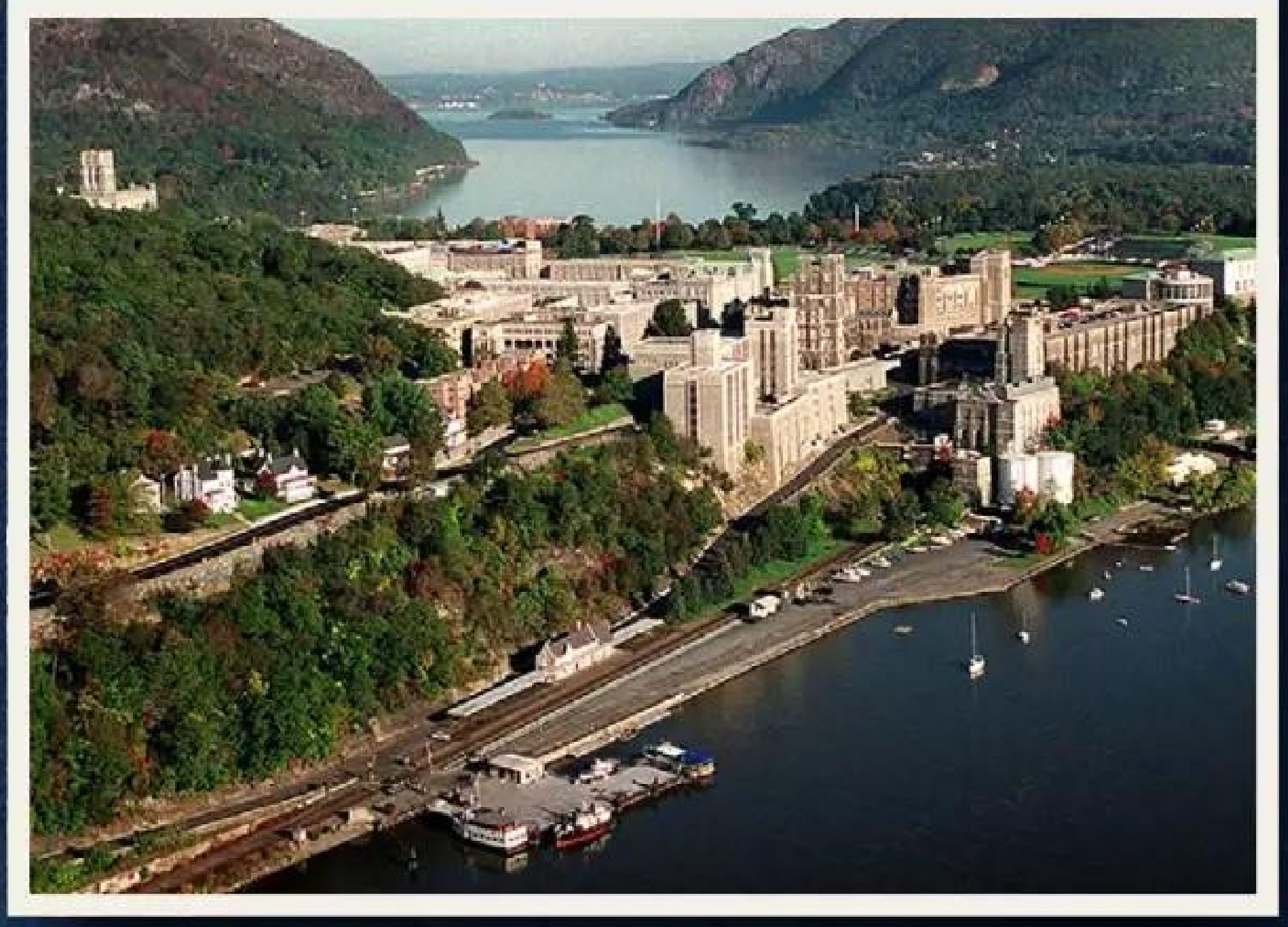
## 'THE LONG GRAY LINE'

**The United States Military Academy at West Point is the US Army's service academy for the production of young officers**

Beyond the production of the weapons of war, New York also plays a role in shaping the men and women who use them. West Point, lying along the Hudson River some fifty miles north of New York City, was once a linchpin of American defence during the War of Independence. So critical was its position guarding the Hudson River that the infamous traitor Benedict Arnold tried to hand it over to the British in 1780.

In 1802, a school for officers, with a focus on engineering, was established at the direction of President Thomas Jefferson. West Point cadets and the graduates of the Academy are known as 'The Long Gray Line' because of the colour of the uniforms they wear.

West Pointers have served the nation well in war and peace. Famous alumni include Ulysses S. Grant, America's foremost Civil War general, and the first Academy graduate to become president, and Dwight D. Eisenhower, commanding general of Allied forces during World War II, who himself later became president.



Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

Images : Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

The bright lights of several billboards illuminate Times Square

### STATE NO. 12

# NORTH CAROLINA

How this largely rural state has flourished to become a hub of commercial, artistic and academic excellence

Words Neil Crossley

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Tar Heel State
**Anthem:** 'The Old North State'
**Admitted to the Union:** 21 November 1789
**Capital:** Raleigh
**Population:** 11,046,024
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Carolina Panthers
NBA: Charlotte Hornets
NHL: Carolina Hurricanes

**North Carolina's history is a rich and complex one and it played a significant role in the fight for independence before becoming the twelfth state to ratify the US Constitution in 1789.**

Tobacco cultivation was a major source of revenue for the state by the late 18th century, followed by cotton in the early 19th century, yet both economies were built on slavery. According to the 1860 census, over 330,000 people, or 33% of the population of 992,622, were enslaved African Americans.

Until well into the 19th century, North Carolina was a distinctly rural state, with few towns and cities. Raleigh had been officially named the state capital in 1792 but by 1860 it had less than 5,000 residents. During the American Civil War (1861-65) North Carolina joined the Confederacy with some reluctance but North Carolina remained a divided state, with 125,000 North Carolina troops serving in the Confederate Army and approximately 15,000 serving in Union Army regiments.

By the late 19th century, the state's population was swollen by an influx of immigration from Virginia and Pennsylvania, as people were drawn in by the economic opportunities that the state's agriculture and mining offered.

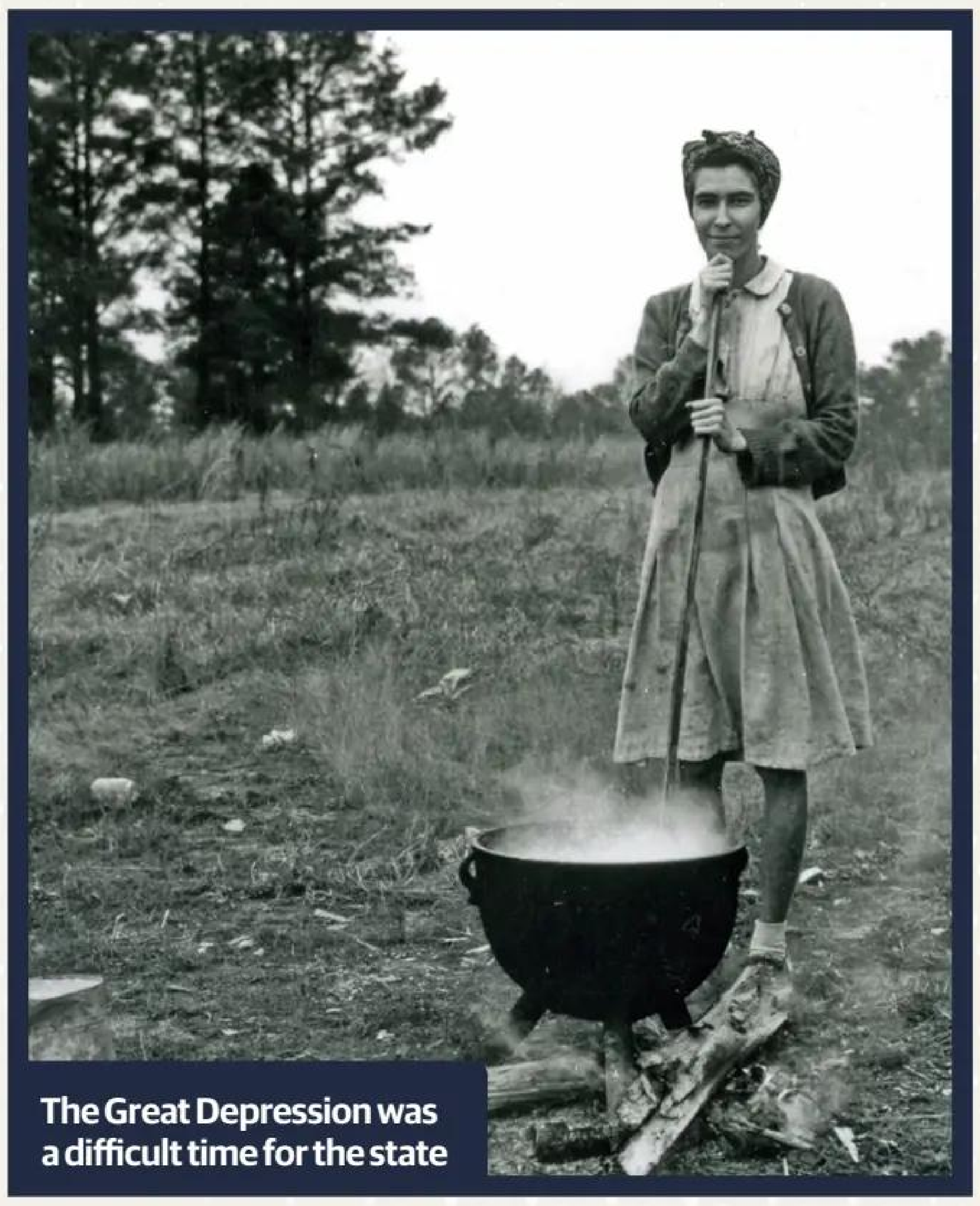
The Great Depression of the 1930s hit North Carolina hard but the New Deal projects helped the state to recover. By the 1950s, North Carolina boasted one of the strongest manufacturing sectors in the US.

Like other Southern states, North Carolina implemented Jim Crow laws in the 1890s, which enforced racial segregation and the disenfranchisement of African Americans. It would take until the dawn of the 1960s for this to change. North Carolina played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, particularly in the form of sit-in protests and the fight against segregation. A series of sit-ins at a lunch counter in Greensboro over five months in 1960 sparked similar protests across the nation, which ultimately led to the desegregation via the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

North Carolina invested heavily in higher education in the second half of the 20th century and as a result, the state became known for its excellent universities, such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University, which was founded in Trinity before moving to Durham in 1892.

During the 1990s, North Carolina became the US' second-largest banking centre after New York City and its economy steadily grew into the 21st century. Much of this growth has taken place in and around cities such as Charlotte, Raleigh and Greensboro. Culturally too, North Carolina boasts a vibrant and thriving arts scene.

The natural beauty of the state, from the Appalachian mountains in the west to its wild, dramatic beaches in the east, has also led to a rise in tourism over recent decades, with North Carolina now ranking among the ten most visited states in the United States. ★



The Great Depression was a difficult time for the state

"North Carolina became the US' second-largest banking centre after New York City"

## FIRST FLIGHT – A HISTORIC MOMENT

How North Carolina became the birthplace of the first powered flight

North Carolina became the focus of global news on 17 December, 1903, when brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first sustained, controlled flight of an engine-powered aircraft at Kill Devil Hills, a coastal stretch of sandy terrain near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

The brothers' breakthrough invention was the creation of a three-axis control system. This landmark achievement enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft effectively while maintaining its equilibrium and it made fixed wing powered flight possible.

The brothers had developed their skills for solving 'the flying problem' in their workshop in Dayton, Ohio, where they had worked for years with printing presses, bicycles, motors and other types of machinery.

The North Carolina State Capitol building in Raleigh

North Carolina is known for its natural beauty

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
39

# NORTH DAKOTA

The wilderness crucible in which President Theodore Roosevelt was forged is quietly one of the US' most successful states

Words April Madden

## BIO

**Nickname:**
Peace Garden State
**Anthem:**
'North Dakota Hymn'
**Admitted to the Union:**
2 November 1889
**Capital:** Bismarck
**Population:** 796,568
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**Half of the population of this Great Plains state lives in a rural area, although that might soon change: Bismarck and Fargo are both among the fastest growing cities in the US, with over a fifth of North Dakotans calling the latter home.** With its wide open spaces and rolling prairies presenting the ideal environment for wheat farming, the state's early pioneers soon replaced their hardscrabble fur-trapping lifestyle with something far more stable and lucrative. During the Dakota Boom of 1886, gigantic farms swept across the once-wild landscape, and the railroad competed to keep up. By the time North Dakota was admitted to the Union, this one-time frontier was the well-connected breadbasket of the Upper Midwest.

The pioneer spirit was still strong, however – North Dakota had been content to remain a territory until manoeuvring from neighbouring rival South Dakota forced its hand. Even after joining the Union it maintained its independent outlook: there are laws still on the statute books today that prevent corporations from owning designated farmland, which in practice means that it's difficult for banks to foreclose mortgages on them. A farmer's land stays his land. This inured North Dakota somewhat from the housing market price collapse during the financial crisis of 2008, while its rich oil reserves mean that it boasts higher employment, this economic success fuelling a higher quality of life (and higher birth rate) for many of its citizens as well as a wide range of municipal projects. In fact, for a long time its violent crime and murder rates were the

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NORTH DAKOTA
2016
E PLURIBUS UNUM

North Dakota is home to the only US National Park that's named after a person; its adopted son Theodore Roosevelt

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATIONAL PARK
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

lowest in the entire US, although these have grown during recent years as the population increases.

North Dakota is famous for its relationship with President Theodore Roosevelt. He first fell in love with the state's dramatic badlands landscapes in 1883, but when his wife and mother died within hours of each other on Valentine's Day 1884, he fled to the North Dakota wilderness to mourn and seek solitary solace. In 1886 Roosevelt, then a ranch owner and deputy sheriff of Billings County, famously embarked on an epic chase across 483 km (300 miles) of bitterly cold North Dakota countryside with two of his ranch hands, to arrest three thieves who had stolen a boat as ice broke up on the Little Missouri River during the spring thaw. After winning the White House in 1901, Roosevelt commented "I never would have been president if it had not been for my experience in North Dakota." ★

> **"Gigantic farms swept across the once-wild landscape"**

## A GARDEN OF PEACE

**This symbol of harmony straddles the US-Canada border on the edge of North Dakota**

With one entrance north of Dunseith, North Dakota (on the US side) and the other south of Boissevain, Manitoba (on the Canadian side), the International Peace Garden allows visitors from both sides to move freely between the two countries within its walls – although you'll need to clear Border Customs on your way out (even if you're going back into the country you came in from). The idea of a garden between two international borders, that celebrated peace and harmony, was the brainchild of Dr Henry J Moore of Ontario, Canada. North Dakota was chosen for the American side because the state contains the geographical centre of the US. The site was officially dedicated in 1932 and today the site is a haven of formal gardens, wild landscapes, memorials and much more.

North Dakota's two key exports are wheat and oil, making it both prosperous and essential to the smooth running of the rest of the US

Images on spread: Getty; Wiki Commons / NicoFlynn

STATE NO. 17

# OHIO

The history of this state includes the launch of aviation and birth of rock and roll

Words Ailsa Harvey

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Buckeye State
**Anthem:** 'Beautiful Ohio'
**Admitted to the Union:**
1 March 1803
**Capital:** Columbus
**Population:** 11,883,304
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Cincinnati Bengals,
Cleveland Browns
NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers
MLB: Cleveland Guardians,
Cincinnati Reds

**Ohio is a Midwestern state, often referred to as a microcosm for American voting preferences.** The state is given this significance because it voted in favour of the winning party in every presidential election from 1964 to 2016. Ohio has long been a crucial region in US history, ever since it was admitted to the Union in 1803 as the 17th state. Its reputation has led to Ohio gaining a secondary nickname 'The Heart of it All'.

After the Revolutionary War, which led to the establishment of the United States of America, Ohio was part of the Northwest Territory of the US. It was, in fact, the first new state to join the Union under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. One item of the criteria that the US government followed when allocating a state at the time was that it needed to have a population of at least 60,000. However, for Ohio, this rule was overlooked and set as a future goal.

By the 1800s, Ohio was a key region in transportation and trade. The state is bordered by one of the Great Lakes, Erie, which presents numerous routes for shipping goods throughout the US with ease. Ohio constructed a canal to link the Ohio River with Lake Erie to increase trade access. This meant that items could be transported to the Great Lakes' ports from trade sites across the southern border of Ohio, where its river passes through.

Ohio State Capitol

Columbus' Ohio State Capitol is the home of the state government

## AN INDUSTRIAL LEADER

In the mid-late 19th century, Ohio had built substantial coal mines across the state. In the 1870s, shortly after the end of the Civil War, the state was retrieving around five million tonnes of coal from its mines annually. Most of these sites were built in the eastern and southern state towns. Due to Ohio's mines and access to other traders across waterways, the state soon became successful in the manufacture of steel, rubber, glass and various machinery. By the

Lake Erie is the smallest of the Great Lakes

Images on spread: Alamy; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

1900s, Ohio had earned its place in the US Rust Belt. This term referred to a few states that surrounded the Great Lakes that became successful in the steel industry and large-scale manufacturing.

The city of Akron gained a reputation in the early 1900s for its booming rubber industry and soon earned the nickname of 'Rubber Capital of the World'. Major tire companies used this city as their headquarters, including Goodyear and Firestone. Akron soon became one of the fastest growing populations of cities in Ohio and the entire nation.

## PRESIDENT-PRODUCING POWERHOUSE

Of all 47 US presidents, seven have been Ohio-born citizens. This includes Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft and Warren G. Harding. An eight president, William Henry Harrison was born in Virginia but lived in Ohio.

The first Ohio-born president was Ulysses S. Grant, who was previously a Union general during the Civil War. In the 1868 election, voters had Grant's actions from the war, and how he commanded armies, fresh in their minds. By helping lead the Union to victory, he was a top contender as president.

## OHIOAN CULTURE

Beyond the political timelines and economic growth, Ohio is a state that has developed a diverse cultural identity. The city of Cleveland, at the south shore of Lake Erie, is known as the birthplace of rock and roll. This began in the 1950s, when on his radio station in Cleveland, called WJW, radio host Alan Freed played music by black vocal groups such as the Dominoes and the Spaniels. These groups merged gospel-style harmonies with harsher rhythms. Freed's audience was mostly white and, at the time, music in the US was partly divided by race. When Freed played music mostly listened to by African American people on his station, he used the new genre name 'Rock and

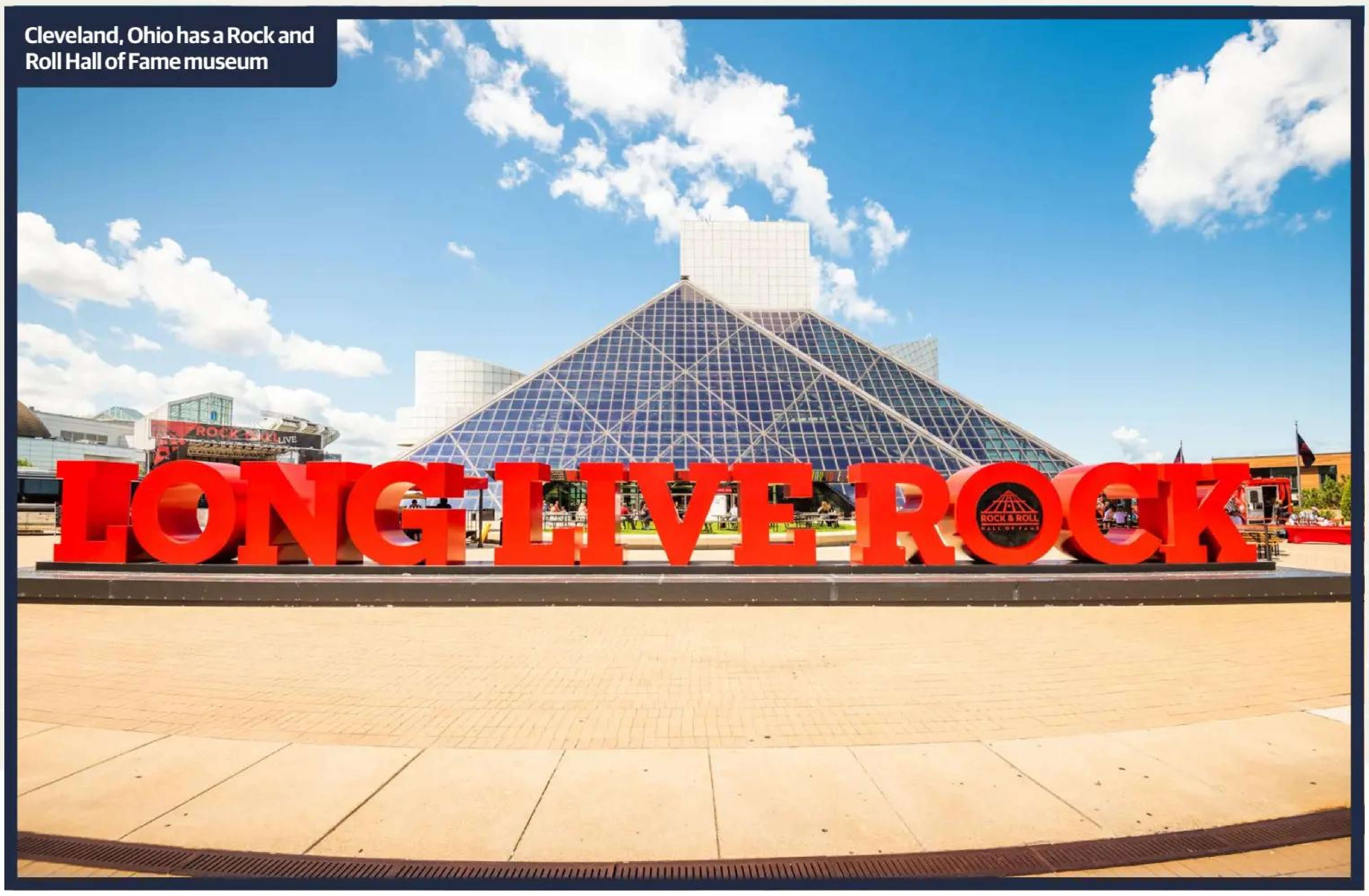
## A SPACEFARING STATE

### Why is Ohio home to so many astronauts?

Did you know that 25 of NASA's past and present astronauts have been from Ohio? The state has dominated US spaceflight, but it was also a pioneer in flight innovation since the world's first flight. The Wright brothers, who built and flew the first gliders in 1903, were from Ohio. Then, in 1969 another Ohioan flight icon was established – this time in spaceflight – when Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon. Perhaps these series of events, and being immersed in state pride has resulted in more young people following in the footsteps of Armstrong's dusty shoes.

John Glenn was the first astronaut to come from Ohio, when he became the first US astronaut to orbit Earth in 1962. During his mission, Glenn achieved three orbits of the planet. Ohio is known for its strong presence in engineering and technology fields, and is home to NASA's Glenn Research Center. This scientific dominance, mixed with inspirational cases may be the recipe for Ohio's relative overproduction of astronauts.

Neil Armstrong was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio, on 5 August 1930


Cleveland, Ohio has a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame museum

Roll'. By exposing a younger audience to music that older generations would choose not to listen to, new audiences began to enjoy the genre and rock and roll fans soared.

Cincinnati is another Ohio city with a reputation – this time in architecture. The city's buildings tell a story of its history, from frontier settlement to a major US city. Some of the styles and periods portrayed in the architecture are European, Victorian and Art Deco. While other cities may have lost some of their historic sites, Cincinnati has preserved them and has the largest collection of Italianate buildings in the nation. Most of this can be seen when visiting the Over-the-Rhine neighbourhood of Cincinnati. The remaining buildings express the city's varied past, from early log-cabin architecture to elaborate detailing with more advanced materials.

## THE HEART OF IT ALL

In modern times, Ohio has continued the patterns of its innovative past. It has persisted in growing and evolving its technology, healthcare, logistics and renewable energy. Culturally, Ohio's position making it part of the Great Lakes and the Midwest, while bordering the Northeast and Eastern US, means that it has absorbed elements of different cultures and traditions to influence its own.

When Ohio became the 17th state, it brought in cultural influence from immigrants working at its new industrial sites, but the foundations of the state and its Native American heritage remain prominent. The rich culture of some of the original inhabitants of this land, such as the Adena and the Hopewell, continue to shape the state in traditional practices, historic sites and old place names. Ohio has agriculture to thank as its earliest economic driver. Through state festivals and traditions, such as the Ohio State Fair, Ohio celebrates its origins, influences and evolution as a growing and successful state. ★

Ulysses S. Grant was the 18th US president

> **"Ohio is a state that has developed a diverse cultural identity"**

Cincinnati's Union Station demonstrates its Art Deco architecture

Images: Alamy

STATE NO.
46

# OKLAHOMA

## Once a home for dispossessed Native Americans, Oklahoma soon rose to statehood

Words April Madden

OKLAHOMA

### BIO

**Nickname:** Native America, Land of the Red Man, Sooner State
**Anthem:** 'Oklahoma', 'Oklahoma Hills'
**Admitted to the Union:** 16 November 1907
**Capital:** Oklahoma City
**Population:** 4,095,393
**Sports franchises:** NBA: City Thunder

**The sheriff takes a drag on his well-chewed stump of cigar and stares incredulously at the cowboy hero before him.** "You mean to tell me you followed the rustlers all the way clean out there? Boy, that's Indian Territory!"

It's not the punchline of a Western movie, a lawless nowhere ridden only by Native American braves and the cowboys who vied with them for supremacy. It was once the name of what would become Oklahoma. 'Indian Territory' described anywhere that was set aside by the 19th century federal government for the forced displacement of Native American tribes. The Trail of Tears led to Oklahoma, but the tribes would not be left in peace there for long. By 1887, settlers were eager for even more land, and the Dawes Act of that year and the Curtis Act eleven years later would provide them with it; removing tribal governments and instead allotting acreage to the heads of Native families as individuals, forcing the Native population to assimilate into white settler society. Land not directly owned by them was assigned to the railroad, or divvied up in the land runs that saw pioneers literally race to claim their parcel of land. Oklahoma's nickname of 'Sooner State' comes from rulebreakers who began racing before the official start time of their land run – they started sooner.

By the early 20th century Oklahoma was sufficiently organised to be admitted to the Union, and soon afterwards, oil was found. For a lot of the 20th century the 'oil capital of the world' was not somewhere in the Persian Gulf but Tulsa, Oklahoma. The prosperity the state enjoyed wasn't confined to settlers of European heritage either; Tulsa's Greenwood district was one of the wealthiest African American neighbourhoods in the US. But the good

The Dust Bowl era saw rural Oklahoma become an arid wasteland

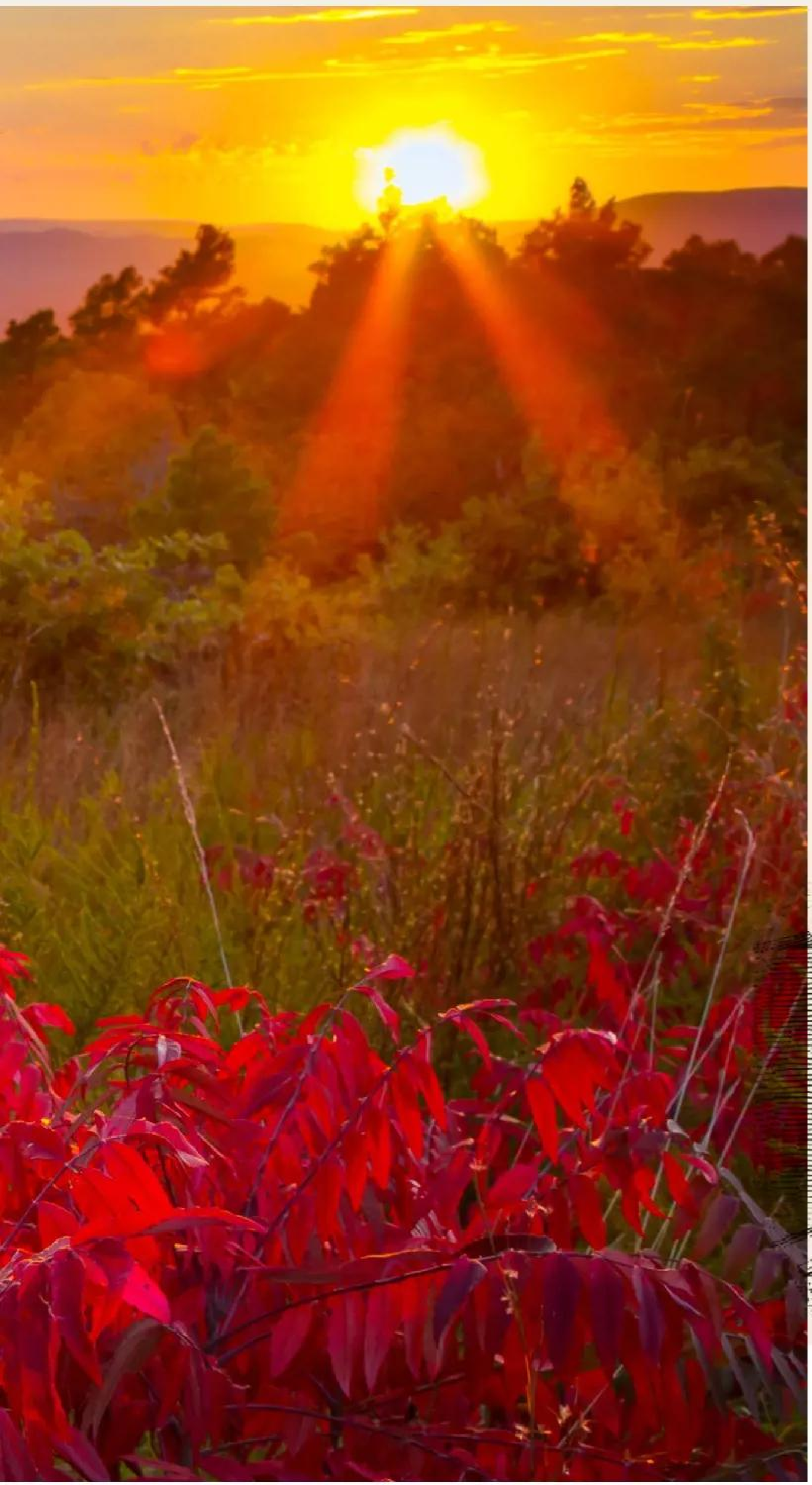
The Talimena Scenic Drive is a National Scenic Byway in southeastern Oklahoma

## GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

**Oklahoma has the largest museum dedicated to the famous road**

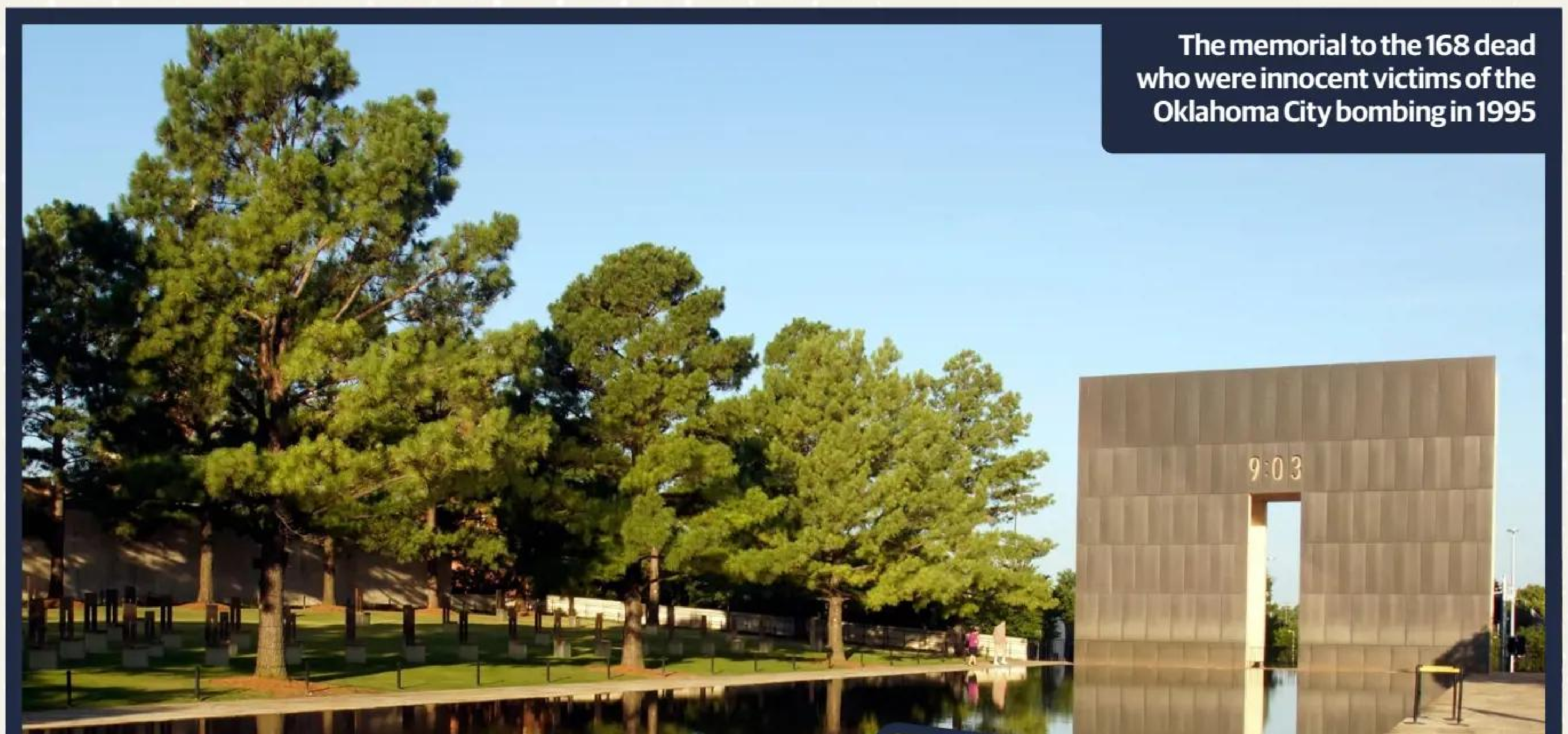
Route 66 is the world's most famous highway. The age of the motor car's answer to the wagon trails west, in the Dust Bowl era Route 66 saw thousands of Americans migrate west in search of a better life. Today, America's Main Street is a premier tourist destination, and in Oklahoma, you can discover everything you want to know about the Mother Road's history and culture. It's arranged by decade and multimedia exhibits allow you to experience the sights and sounds of Route 66's history vividly. Plus there's an excellent gift shop full of iconic souvenirs.

Route 66 Museum



times couldn't last – poor farming practices, drought and high winds precipitated the notorious Dust Bowl: from the 1930s until 1950, Oklahoma languished in a level of poverty it found difficult to shake. Irrigation projects brought it back from the brink, but since 2016 the state has experienced record flooding.

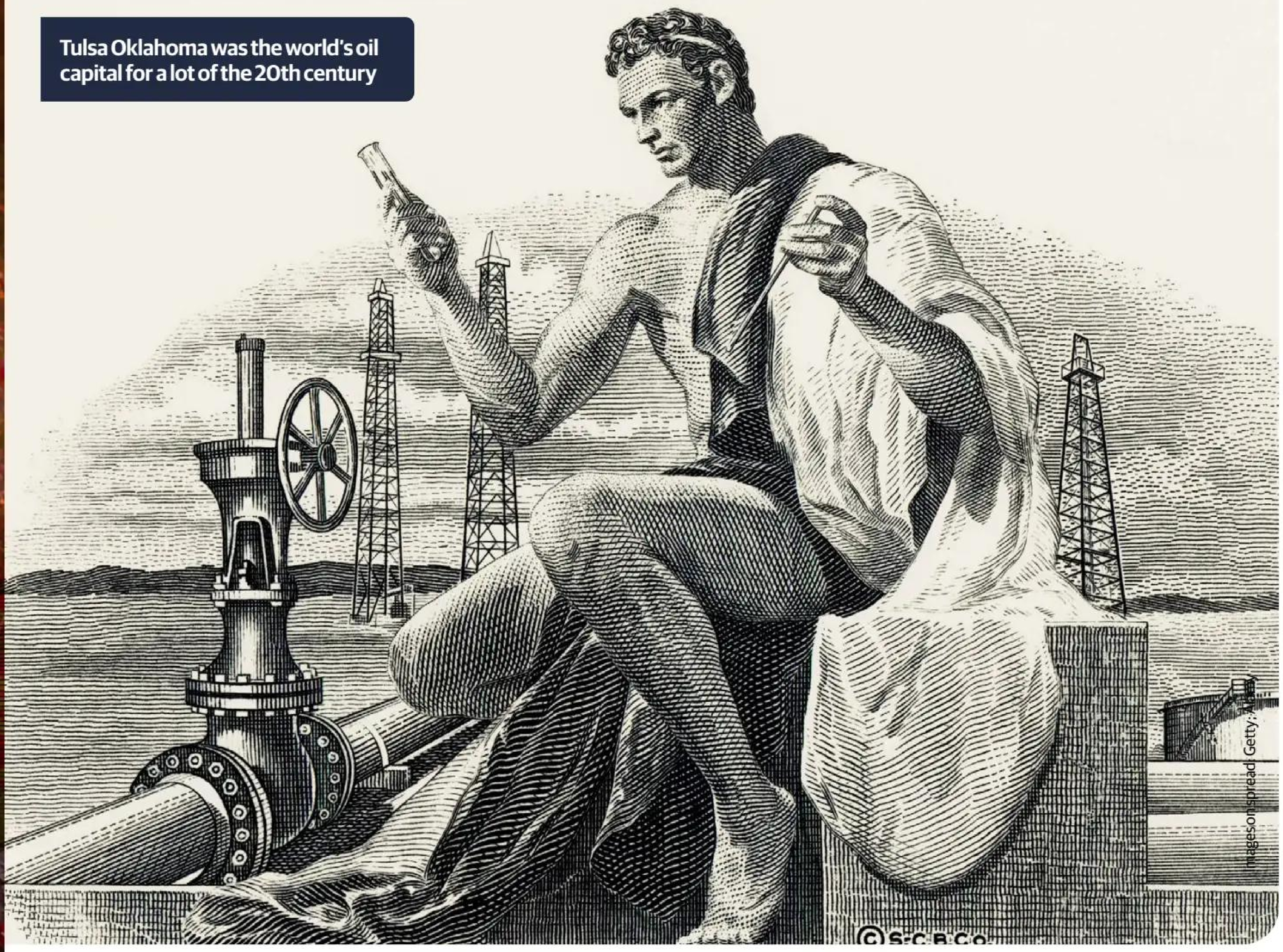
Oklahoma City is also sadly the location of the most destructive and deadliest terrorist act in US history. The Oklahoma City bombing killed 168 people and caused hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage. The perpetrators were radical anti-government survivalists, and ringleader Timothy McVeigh was executed for his crimes. ★


The memorial to the 168 dead who were innocent victims of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995

Oklahoma was originally Indian Territory, designated for the dispossessed tribes who had been forcibly removed from their ancestral homes

TERRITORY
KIOWAS
COMANCHES
APACHES
CREEK COUNTRY
CHICKASAW NATION

> "By 1887, settlers were eager for even more land"


Tulsa Oklahoma was the world's oil capital for a lot of the 20th century

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

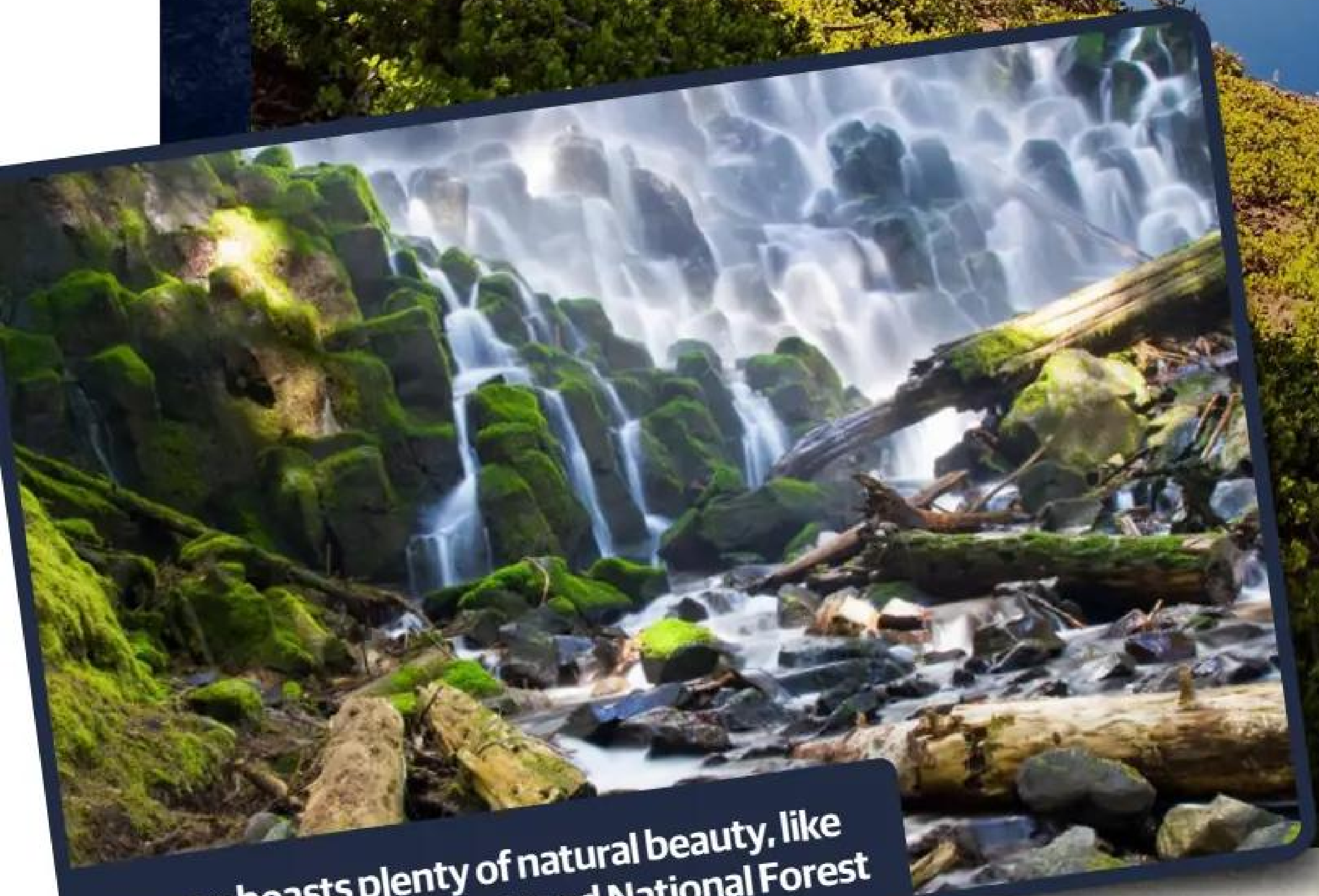
STATE NO.

33

# OREGON

## Self reliance and resilience are defining features of Oregon, a state forged by a pioneering spirit

Words Neil Crossley



Oregon boasts plenty of natural beauty, like the Ramona Falls in Mt. Hood National Forest

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Beaver State

**Anthem:** 'Oregon, My Oregon'

**Admitted to the Union:** 14 February 1859

**Capital:** Salem

**Population:** 4,272,371

**Sports franchises:** NBA: Portland Trail Blazers

**It's a state shaped by hardship, ambition and a pioneering spirit that is enshrined in its legend and legacy.** Situated in the Pacific Northwest, Oregon attracted settlers with the promise of fertile land, opportunity and a desire to escape economic instability in the East. They were also driven by the concept of Manifest Destiny, the belief that the US was destined to expand across the continent. From the early 1840s to the late 1860s, the iconic Oregon Trail became the major migration route west for those in search of a new life.

Oregon was admitted into the Union on 14 February 1859 and had a 'whites only' clause written into its original state constitution. The state also adopted a law in 1862 requiring all ethnic minorities to pay a $5 annual tax.

By the 1880s, the growth of railroads had radically expanded the state's lumber, wheat and other agricultural markets, as well as its cities. Portland grew to become Oregon's biggest city and for much of the 19th century, it was also the major port for the Pacific Northwest.

In 1902, Oregon approved a system of direct legislation by its citizens, known as the Oregon System and six years later it empowered its citizens to recall public officials by ballot initiative.

The expansion of industry and the regional economy was boosted following the construction of the Bonneville Dam in 1933-37 on the Columbia River. Hydroelectric power, food and lumber from Oregon went on to contribute significantly to the economy of the Western United States.

Portland is the most populous city in the state

The Legislative Building in Salem, the capital city

Since the 1970s, Oregon has been home to burgeoning technological giants such Textronix, as well as sportswear brand Nike, the state's largest public corporation.

Oregon has a long history of polarised conflicts, such as white supremacists versus anti-racists, and it remains one of the most politically-polarised states in the US today. Up until the 1980s, Oregon was a largely red state but it has since leaned towards the Democrats, with a majority voting for the Democratic candidate in every presidential election since 1988.

Perhaps not surprisingly for such a predominately rural state, Oregon's population is relatively small, just 4,237,256 people as reported in the 2020 census, although all the signs are this is increasing. The 2014 National Movers Survey concluded Oregon was the US's Top Moving Destination, and that for every one family moving out of the state, two were moving in.

Across the state, its citizens are often defined by the official state motto Alis Volat Propriis – 'She Flies on her own wings' – reflecting a spirit of self-reliance, resilience and the ability to achieve goals through one's own efforts and initiative. ★

> **"Situated in the Pacific Northwest, Oregon attracted settlers with the promise of fertile land"**

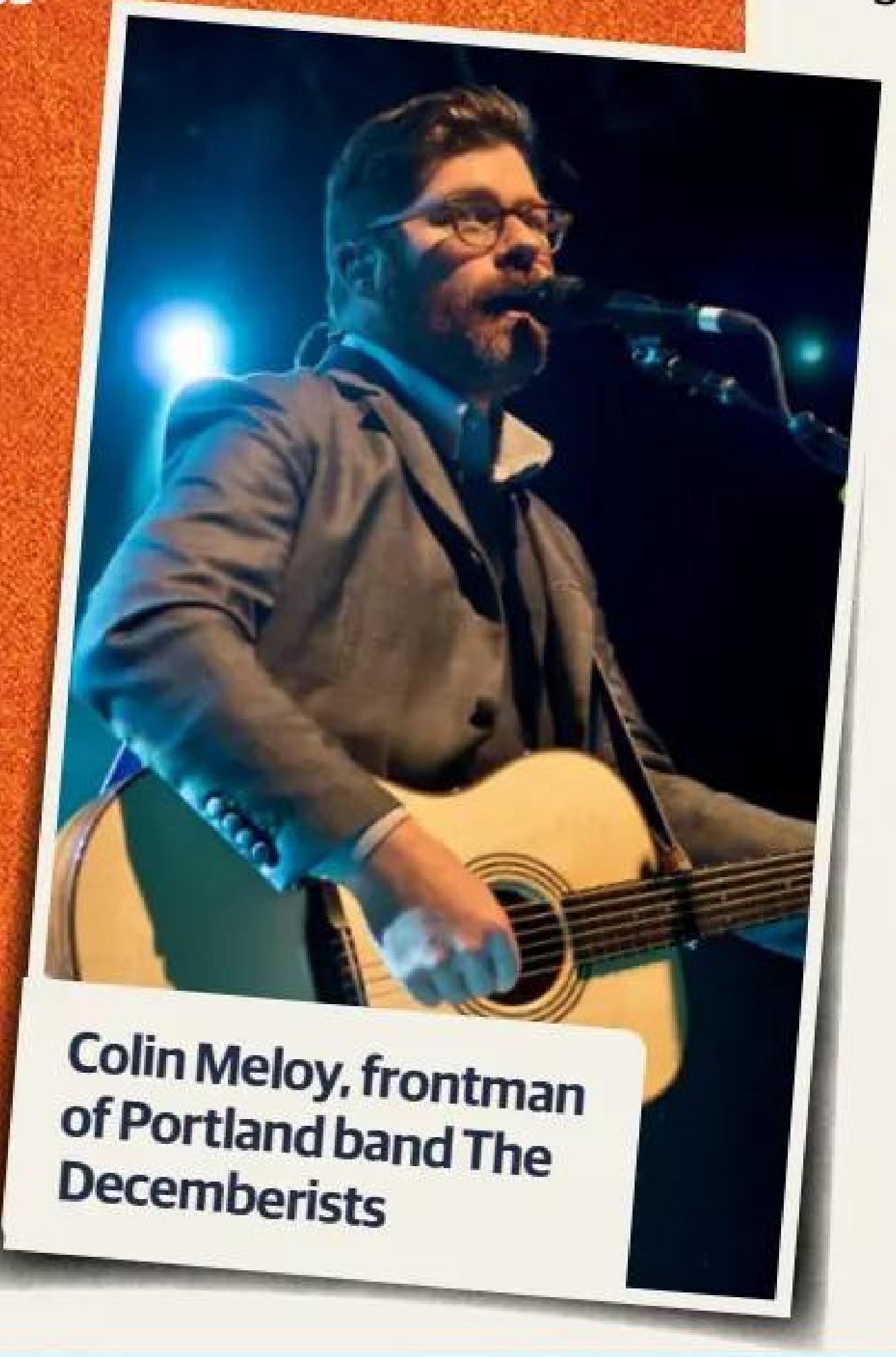
## CREATIVE COLOSSUS

**How Portland's 'maker mindset' has fostered a uniquely talented creative community across the arts**

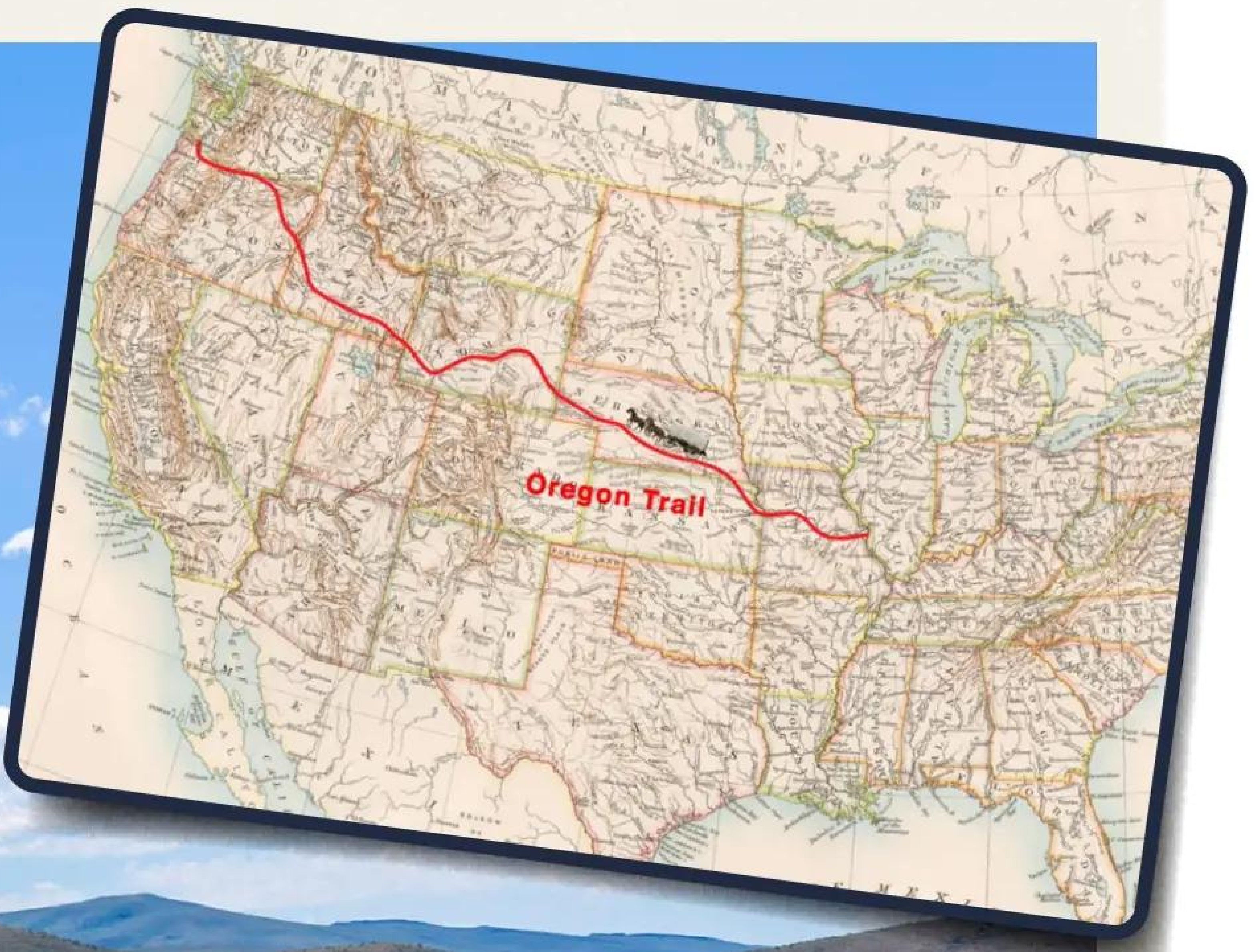
For almost half a century, Portland has boasted an increasingly vibrant arts scene and a strong cultural ethos, fuelled by a thriving artistic community, unique urban spaces that foster creativity and supportive arts organisations.

Music in particular has flourished in the city, particularly since the 90s as artists such as Elliott Smith, M. Ward, the Dandy Warhols, Sleater-Kinney, The Decemberists and The Shins have emerged with wholly idiosyncratic styles and sounds and gained global recognition and acclaim. The city's diverse musical landscape also encompasses genres such as jazz, punk, hip-hop, hardcore and grunge.

It's often claimed that the city's unique character and cultural ethos stems from its 'maker mindset' – creating while learning & developing unique creative solutions in the process.



Colin Meloy, frontman of Portland band The Decemberists



An 1870s map of the US, depicting the Oregon Trail

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
2

# PENNSYLVANIA

Resource-rich Pennsylvania was fundamental to the economic growth of the United States

**Words Marc DeSantis**

**The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the second state admitted to the United States, is today the fifth most populous in the nation.** It was founded as an English colony by the Quaker William Penn in 1681. Pennsylvania, which means 'Penn's Woods', was named in honour of Penn's father.

The younger Penn was especially noteworthy for his religious tolerance, and also gave shelter to Native Americans driven from other colonies. The Pennsylvania colony was very successful. Its largest city at the time of the American Revolution, and indeed, of all the Thirteen Colonies, was Philadelphia, the 'City of Brotherly Love'. Philadelphia would host the signing of the Declaration of Independence, as well as the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which crafted the United States' bedrock governing document, the United States Constitution. It would also serve for a short while as the second capital of the US.

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Keystone State

**Anthem:** 'Pennsylvania'

**Admitted to the Union:** 12 December 1787

**Capital:** Harrisburg

**Population:** 13,078,751

**Sports franchises:**

NFL: Philadelphia Eagles, Pittsburgh Steelers

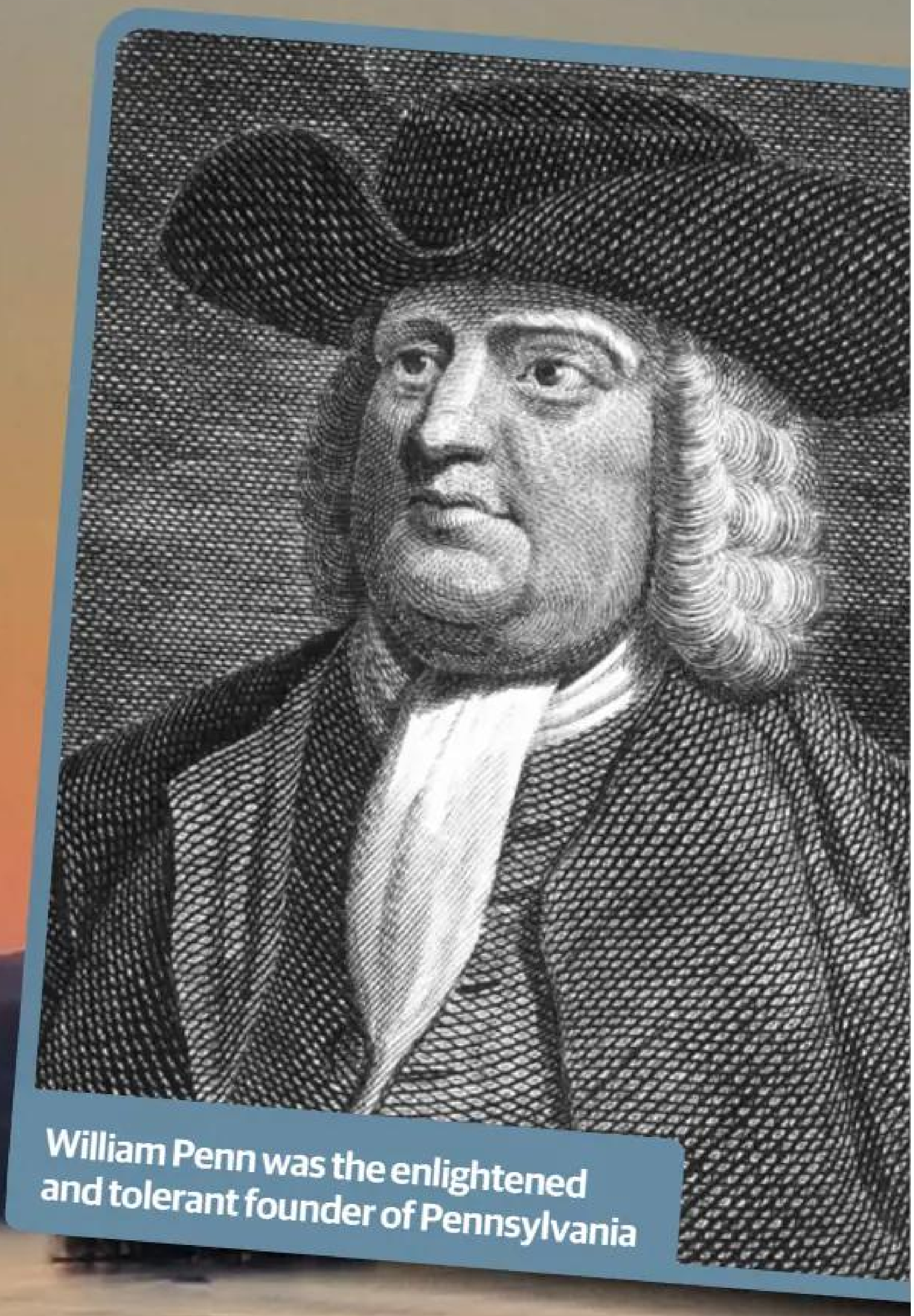
NBA: Philadelphia 76ers

MLB: Philadelphia Phillies, Pittsburgh Pirates

NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins, Philadelphia Flyers

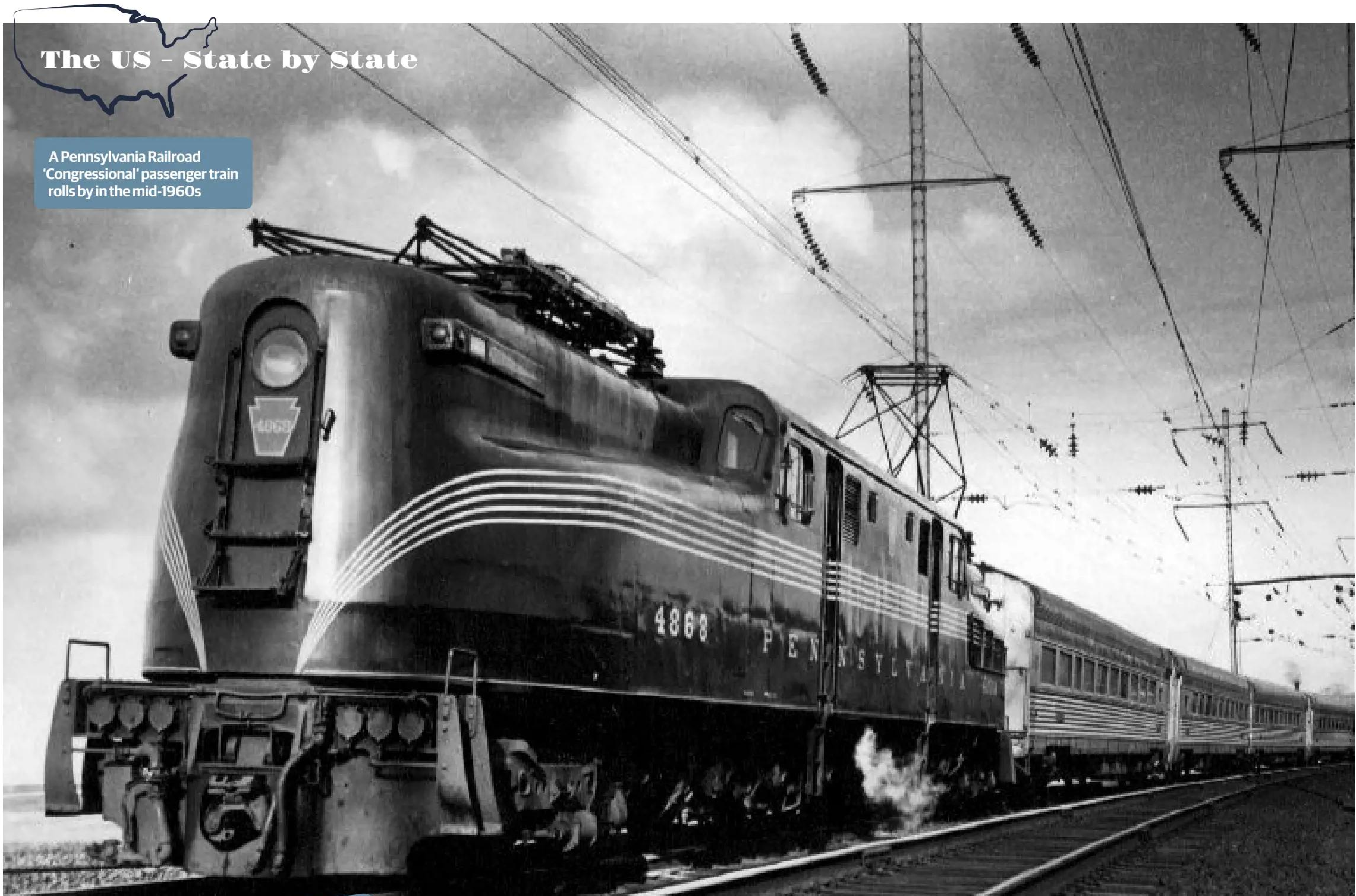
## Pennsylvania's Railroad

Early Pennsylvania wisely invested in good transportation. Philadelphia sought to ensure that the farm products of Lancaster County came its way, instead of

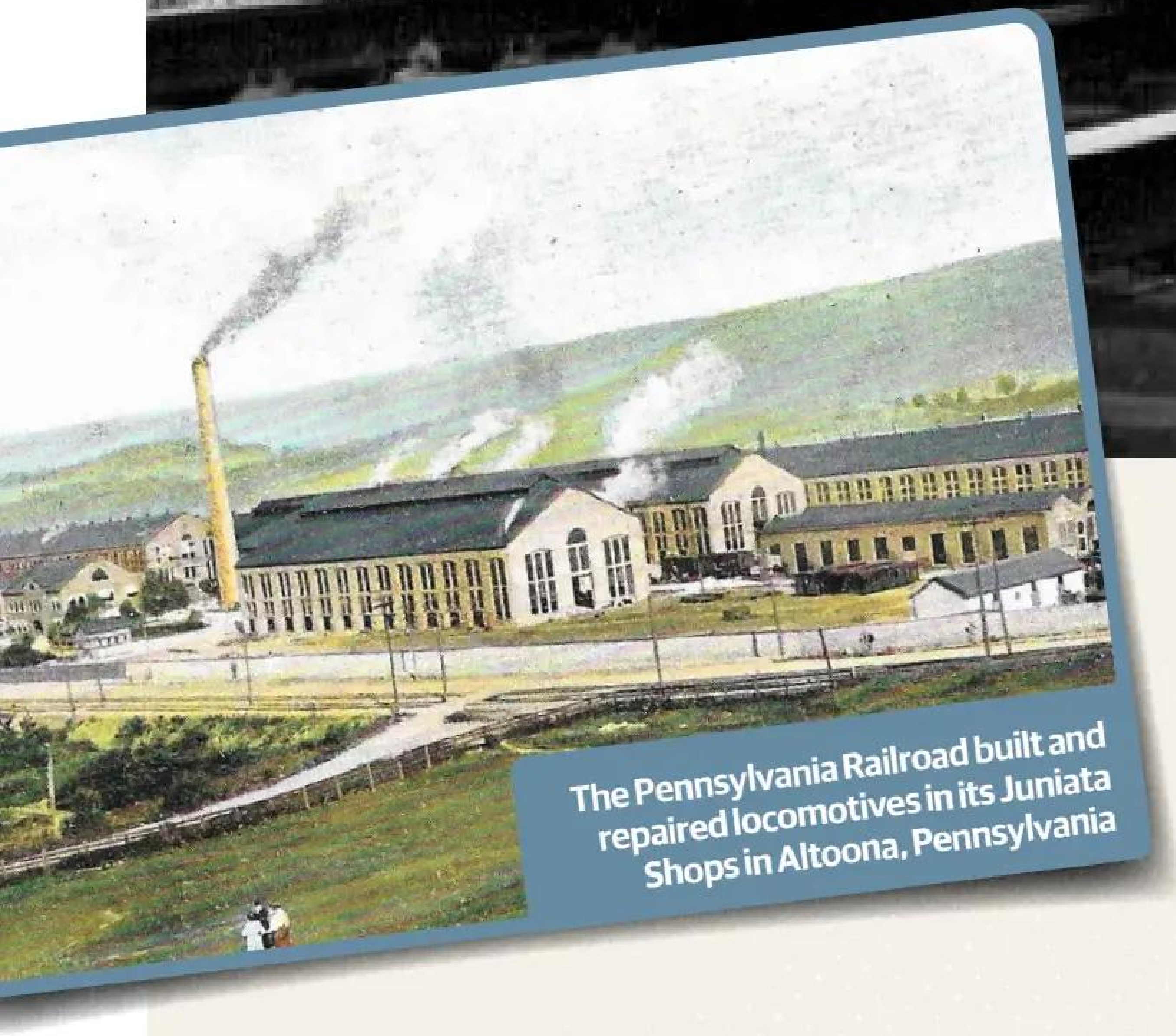

William Penn was the enlightened and tolerant founder of Pennsylvania

The sun sets over Shocks Bridge on the Susquehanna River

Images on spread: Shutterstock; Adobe Stock; Creative Commons/Wiki



A Pennsylvania Railroad 'Congressional' passenger train rolls by in the mid-1960s



The Pennsylvania Railroad built and repaired locomotives in its Juniata Shops in Altoona, Pennsylvania

heading elsewhere. This resulted in the construction of the Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike, a paved road that made travel easier. Another type of road would also take on immense importance to the state.

The development of the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) in the early 19th century was initially driven in large part by anxiety. Philadelphia worried that it would be left behind in the race to acquire commercial links with the American West. In 1846, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was chartered to build a railway stretching from the state capital of Harrisburg to Pittsburgh, a thriving city in the west of the state.

The PRR eventually came to comprise several trunk and branching lines. One important portion went to Chicago, and another to St. Louis. Much of the American East would be knit tightly by the PRR and its affiliates.

The railroad moved huge amounts of freight, such as coal, but it carried passengers in very large numbers as well. By the early 20th century, one could travel via a PRR line all the way from Boston to Washington, D.C., far to the south. In the latter half of the century, structural and technological challenges came to sap the PRR's bottom line.

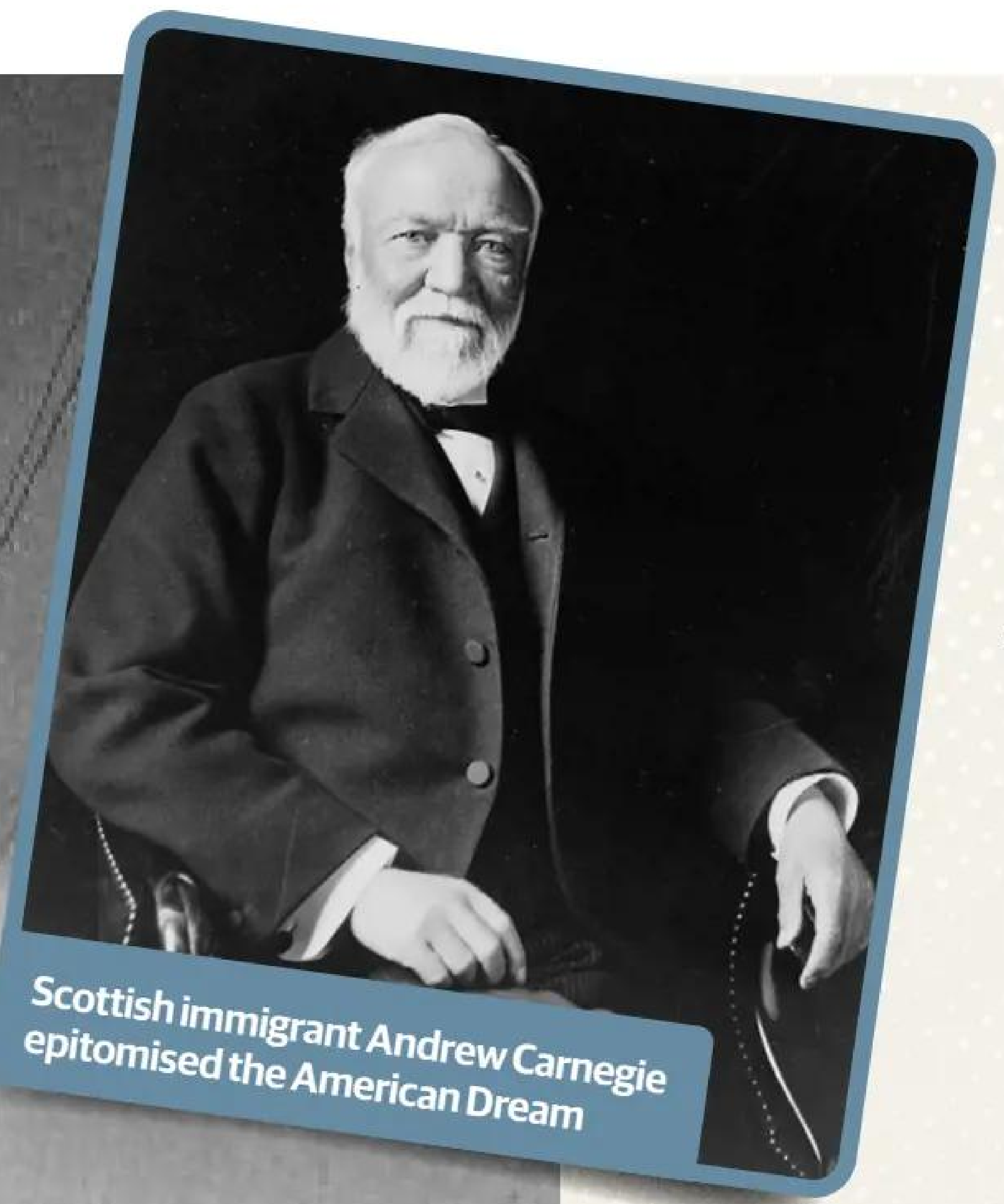
**"Philadelphia worried that it would be left behind in the race to acquire commercial links with the American West"**

Railroads were now generally suffering in the competition for freight-hauling, once an extensive network of highways came into existence after World War II. The American Northeast, where the PRR had much of its track, was deindustrialising, as factories moved elsewhere. This did not bode well for the Pennsylvania Railroad cargo business. The Pennsylvania Railroad declared bankruptcy in 1970. Passenger service would henceforth be handled by a new government corporation, Amtrak, which is still in operation.

## Coal, Iron, and Steel

Pennsylvania didn't just move much of the nation by train. It powered much of it too. In the southwest of the state lay enormous amounts of bituminous coal, a soft variety of the black mineral. This was used to provide the energy to run the furnaces that reduced iron ore to iron in great iron- and steel-making centres such as Pittsburgh. In addition to the bituminous coal, Pennsylvania also possesses the harder form known

Images : Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock; Creative Commons/Wiki



Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie epitomised the American Dream

as anthracite coal. This became favoured for use by industry, and also for heating homes.

Another substance that was present in the Commonwealth was petroleum oil. The first such 'strike' of this oil in the Western Hemisphere was made at Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1859. Though the presence of oil was already an established fact, its value was not truly realized until the mid-19th century, when a distillation process was invented that allowed crude oil, the petroleum removed from the ground, to be refined into a clean fuel. Pennsylvania thereby became an early leader in the new petroleum industry. Oil would prove to be one of the foremost energy sources of the future for the world.

## Business Titans of Pennsylvania

Two men, each from different backgrounds, came to exemplify the can-do Pennsylvania spirit. The first, Andrew Carnegie, epitomised the immigrant success story. Born in Dunfermline, Scotland, in 1835, he and his family emigrated to America in 1848. The Carnegies set down stakes in Pittsburgh, in western Pennsylvania. Andrew took on several jobs, such as telegraph messenger. He subsequently became a telegraph operator, the 'high-tech' communications technology of the day. While working there, he became acquainted with Thomas Scott, the superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who took on Andrew as his personal assistant in 1853. When Scott moved up in the ranks of the PRR in 1859, Carnegie took his old position, being just twenty-four years old.

Carnegie would work at the Railroad until 1865, when he resigned. He pioneered the development of sleeping cars for moving passengers on long overland trips. He also invested in iron mills, iron bridge-building, and the nascent oil industry by purchasing wells in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

These investments paid off handsomely, and Carnegie, the immigrant boy from Scotland, became extraordinarily wealthy, and one of the richest men in America. He later moved to New York for business reasons, but kept a watchful eye on operations back

Gettysburg National Cemetery is the resting place of Union soldiers who fell in the Battle of Gettysburg.

President Abraham Lincoln gave his inspiring Gettysburg Address on 19 November 1863

## BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICA

**Independence Hall in Philadelphia witnessed the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutional Convention**

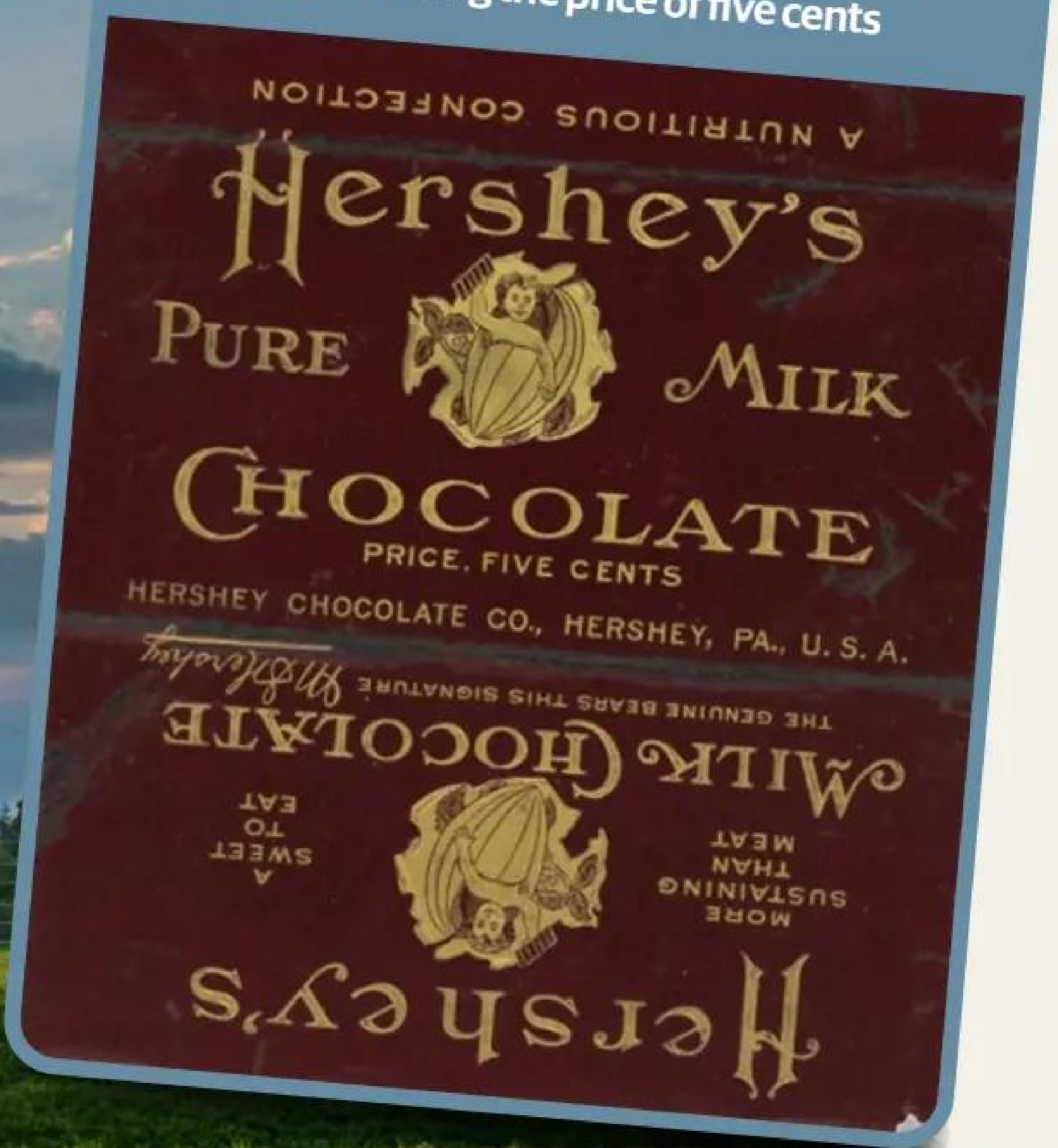
There are few places in the United States more closely associated with the nation's founding than Independence Hall, originally known as the State House. The Declaration of Independence, explaining the colonists' reasons for separating from the British Crown, was adopted there on 4 July 1776.

After independence had been won, representatives of the states again gathered in the State House, this time to frame a new charter for the country, in what is called the Constitutional Convention. Pennsylvania was the second state to ratify the resulting United States Constitution.

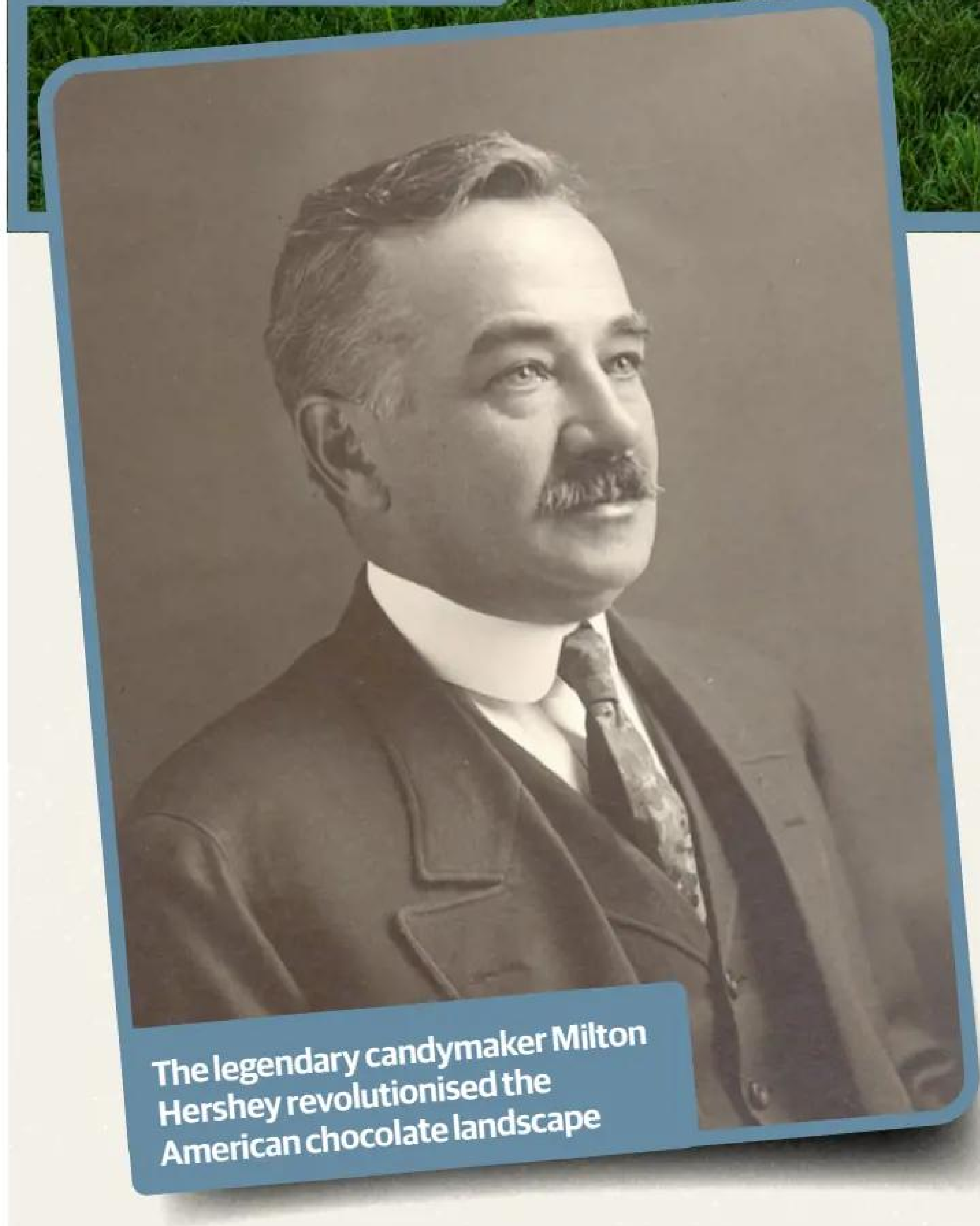
The State House was already an elderly building by then. Its condition was so poor that it was nearly razed. The historic edifice was saved by the intervention of donors, who gave enough money to enable Philadelphia to purchase it from Pennsylvania's state government. The State House was refurbished, and eventually gained the name it holds today: Independence Hall.

Independence Hall, originally Pennsylvania's State House, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Pennsylvania is home to the most numerous population of Amish in the US



The wrapper of a Hershey's milk chocolate from 1903, bearing the price of five cents



The legendary candymaker Milton Hershey revolutionised the American chocolate landscape

in Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh became the centre of iron and steel making in the US, with the Carnegie Steel Company at the forefront.

Carnegie also became a great philanthropist. He gave away huge amounts of money to support colleges, found libraries, and seek cures for diseases.

Another Pennsylvanian, Milton Hershey, was born in Derry Township in 1857 to a Mennonite family. Milton loved candy. He became an apprentice to a candymaker and set up his own business making taffy in Philadelphia when he was just 19.

Hershey's start was uneven. He turned to producing caramels and in time his business made profits. His main factory was in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with others in Mount Joy and Reading, and a further one in Chicago, Illinois. Once his fortune was made, he became an avid world traveller.

He also became an innovator. The product most closely associated with him is chocolate. After seeing chocolate at the Columbian Exposition in 1893 in Chicago, Milton was hooked. In 1894, he started the Hershey Chocolate Company. Among his biggest successes was the famous Hershey bar selling for just five cents.

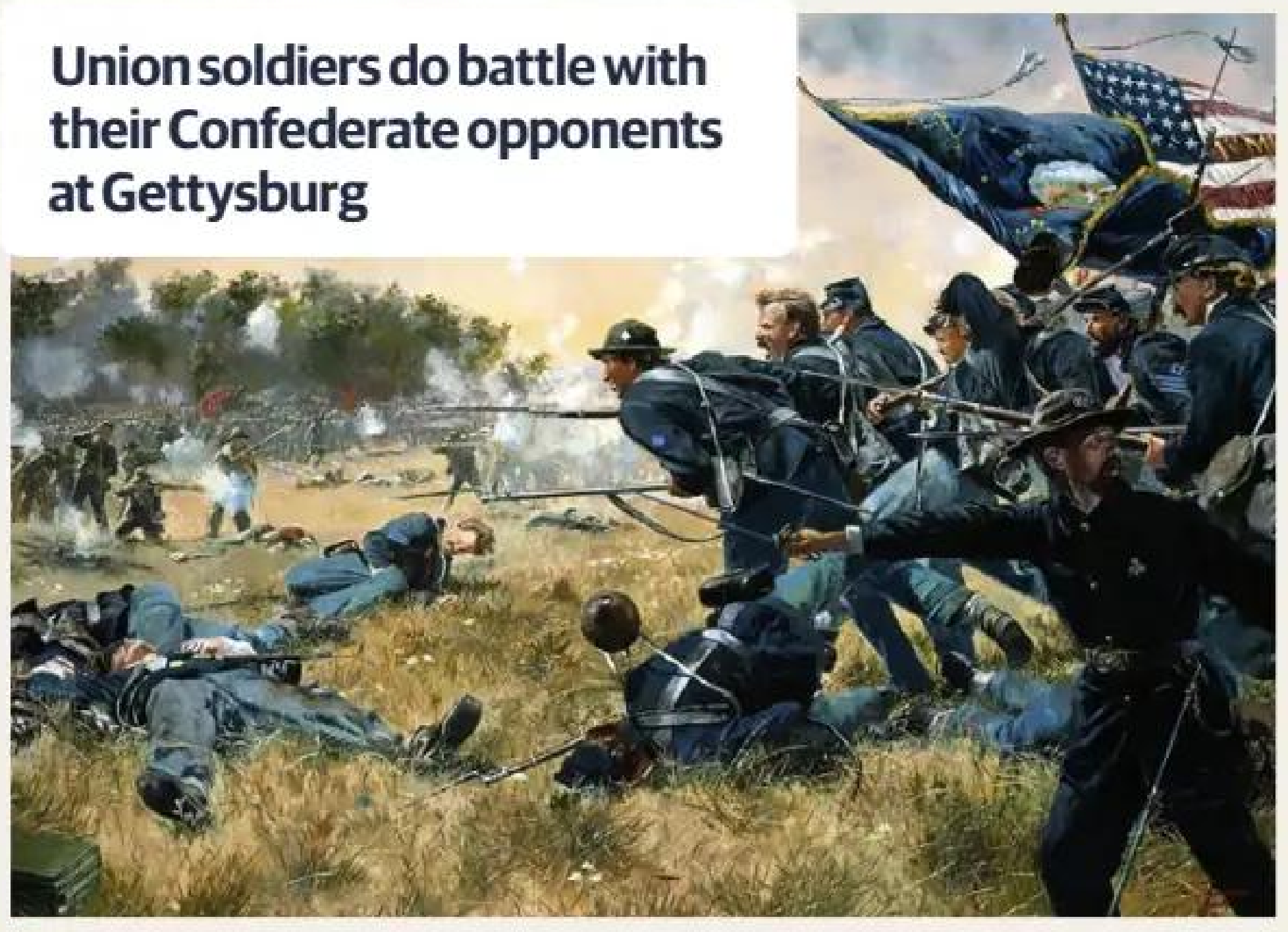
> ***"Pittsburgh became the centre of iron and steel making in the US, with the Carnegie Steel Company at the forefront"***

## THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

**The Battle of Gettysburg, the bloodiest of the Civil War, marked the conflict's turning point against the Confederacy**

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was a crossroads town in early July 1863. It was destined to become the site of the most famous and deadliest battle of the Civil War. Confederate General Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, had sought to relieve pressure on Virginia by taking his army north into Pennsylvania. Lee reasoned that the Union's Army of the Potomac would be drawn away to prevent him from attacking the US capital of Washington.

The two armies met at Gettysburg on 1 July 1863. The battle developed slowly, until it culminated on 3 July with a titanic Confederate frontal assault on the centre of the Army of the Potomac's line. 'Pickett's Charge', as it is known, involved some fifteen thousand men stretched out longer than a mile. These men were hammered by heavy fire, and the charge was repulsed with massive casualties. The North had won a costly but clear victory, and the South's days of rebellion were numbered.



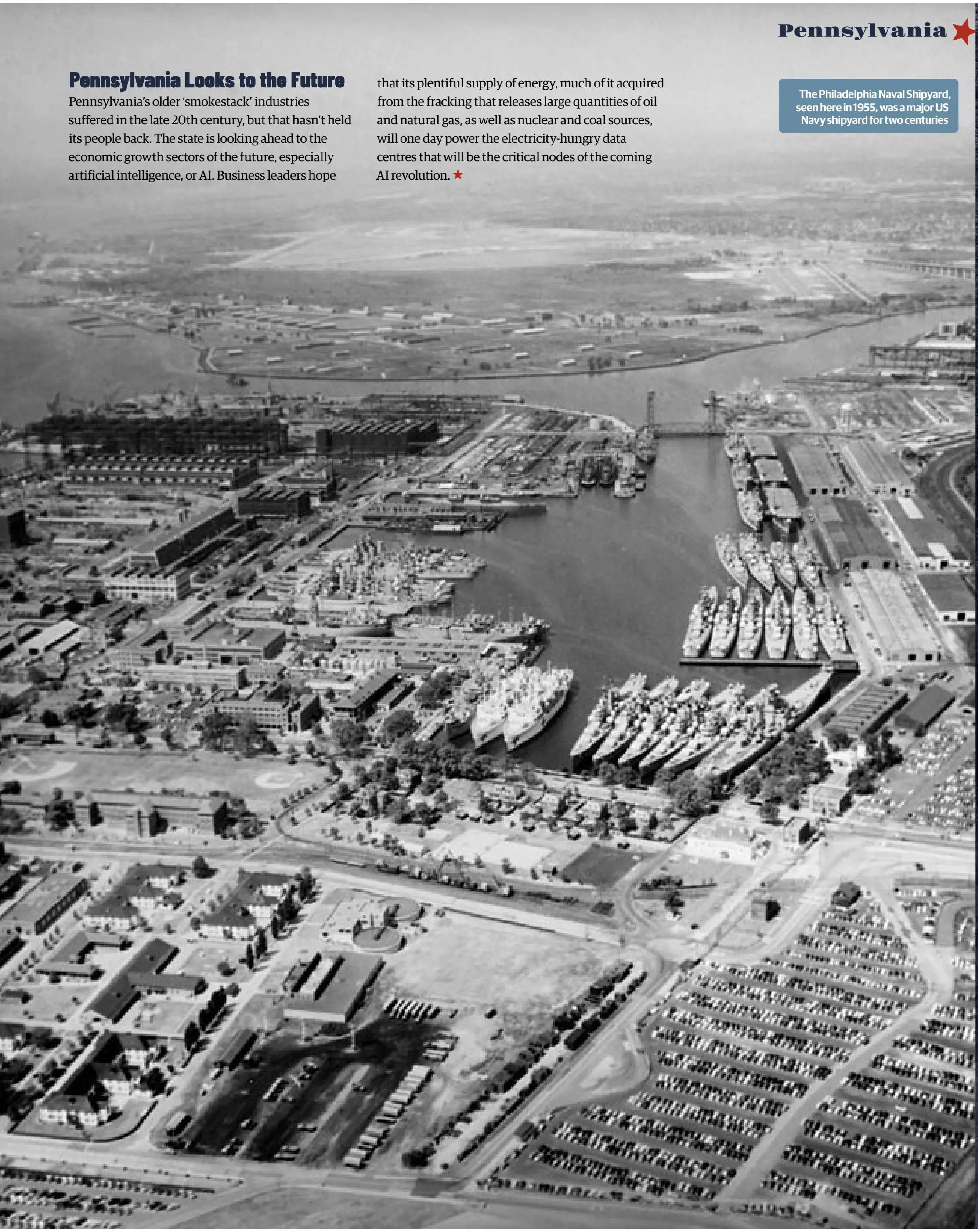
Union soldiers do battle with their Confederate opponents at Gettysburg

Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

Images : Getty;AdobeStock; Creative Commons/Wiki

## Pennsylvania Looks to the Future

Pennsylvania's older 'smokestack' industries suffered in the late 20th century, but that hasn't held its people back. The state is looking ahead to the economic growth sectors of the future, especially artificial intelligence, or AI. Business leaders hope that its plentiful supply of energy, much of it acquired from the fracking that releases large quantities of oil and natural gas, as well as nuclear and coal sources, will one day power the electricity-hungry data centres that will be the critical nodes of the coming AI revolution. ★



The Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, seen here in 1955, was a major US Navy shipyard for two centuries

STATE NO.

13

# RHODE ISLAND

## This New England state was where the Industrial Revolution came ashore and swept across America

*Words April Madden*

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Ocean State, Little Rhody

**Anthem:** 'Rhode Island's It For Me

**Admitted to the Union:** 29 May 1790

**Capital:** Providence

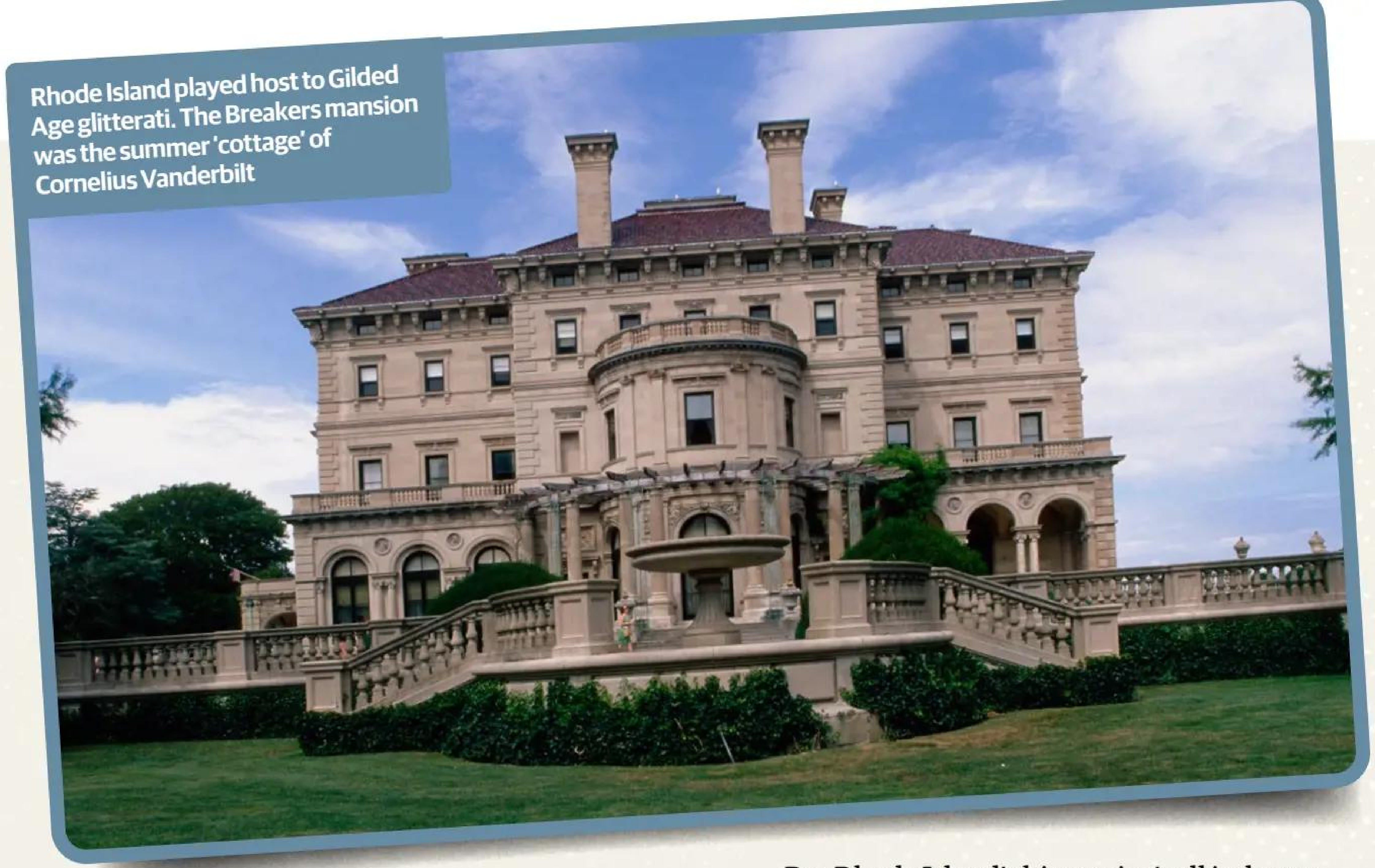
**Population:** 1,112,308

**Sports franchises:** N/A

**Despite its name, most of Rhode Island is in fact on the Eastern Seaboard mainland.** It takes its name from the largest island in Narragansett Bay on the eastern side of the state. Rhode Island proper, also known as Aquidneck Island, is linked to the mainland by three bridges.

Having played important roles in both the Civil War and in the advent of the Industrial Revolution on US shores, Rhode Island's active, self-made residents chafed impatiently under the restrictions of its outdated colonial charter of 1663, which restricted voting and legal representation to wealthy landowners. In 1841, politician Thomas Wilson Dorr led a popular uprising against these restrictions, claiming that they violated the US Constitution. In the clashes that followed, Dorr and his supporters led an armed insurrection against the charter government, which resulted in Dorr's imprisonment for state treason. Nonetheless, he had forced the legislature's hand and a state constitution was drafted that not only reduced the income requirements for voting, but also re-extended voting rights to Black men (those meeting the original property requirements had been able to vote up until 1822) and put an end to slavery in the state. Rhode Island was also one of the earliest to end segregation in public schools in 1866. However, it did experience an increase in racial violence after waves of immigration prompted by the Great Depression in the 1920s and 30s.

Before that worldwide economic downturn, however, Rhode Island sparkled as one of the



Rhode Island played host to Gilded Age glitterati. The Breakers mansion was the summer 'cottage' of Cornelius Vanderbilt

brightest jewels in the Gilded Age's crown. It soon became the ideal summer-home destination for wealthy industrialists and their families. In time, many of these holidaymakers made their residence permanent, resulting in the many beautiful mansions that dot the state, which urbanised rapidly to accommodate the factory workers employed by the industrial upper class. Sadly today Depression-era economic history is repeating itself, and while Rhode Island provides an enhanced social safety net for its poorest children, low-income adults are at a higher risk of homelessness than they were in previous decades due to the pressures of blue-collar economic migration from other Eastern Seaboard states.

But Rhode Island's history isn't all industry, economy, and pragmatism. The weirdest chapter in its storied past is the New England Vampire Panic. Fuelled by the 19th century belief that tuberculosis - then known as 'consumption' - was caused by the unquiet dead feeding on the lives of their surviving relatives, those who had died of the disease were exhumed and inspected for signs of vampirism, such as if the body seemed unusually 'fresh' after its time in the grave. The bodies were then flipped over or, in some cases, decapitated or relieved of their organs. The body parts would then be reburied separately or burnt, with other tuberculosis sufferers in the family encouraged to inhale the fumes as a cure, or even drink the ashes mixed with water. Needless to say, it didn't cure their disease. ★

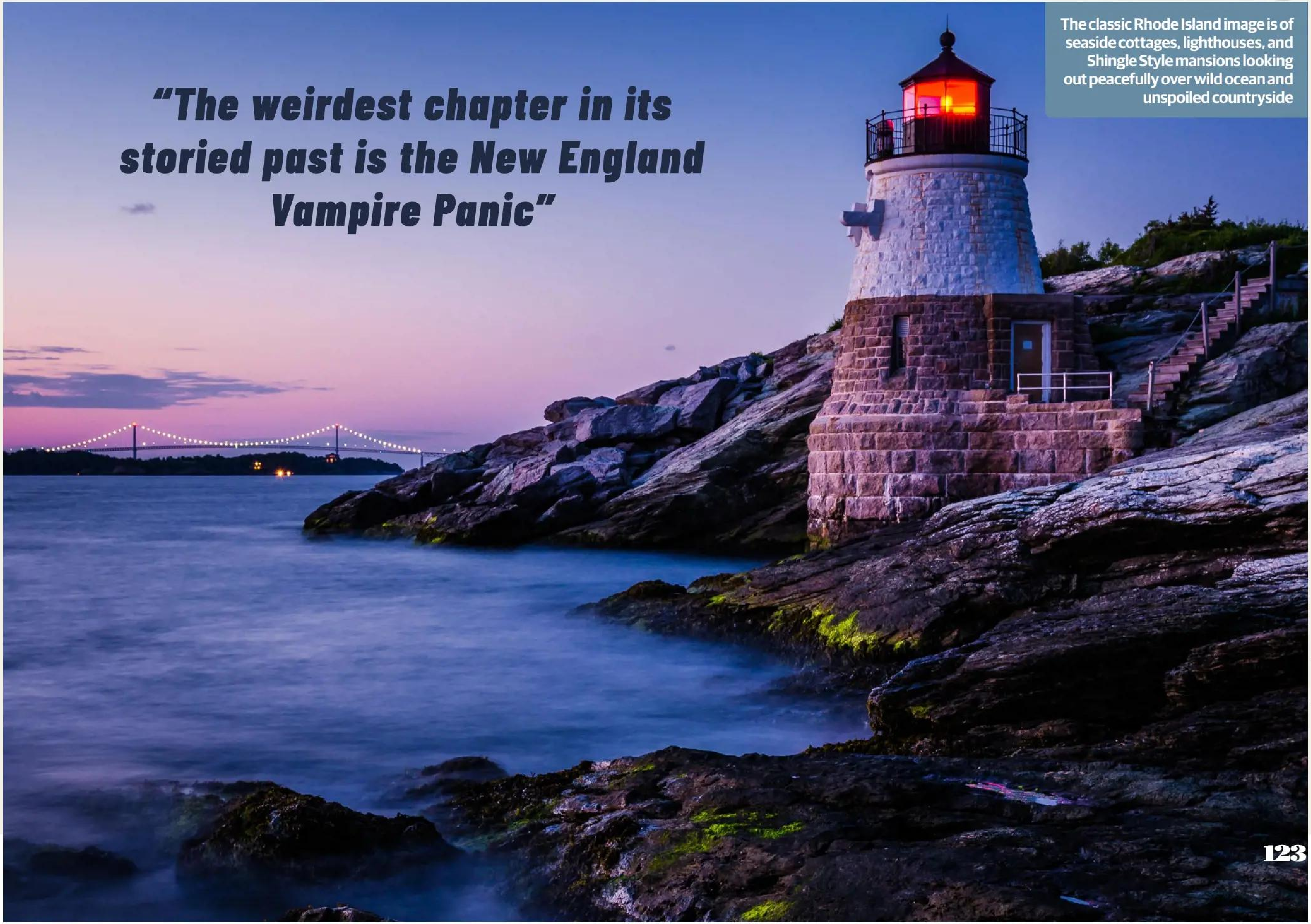
## AN ICON OF SPORT

**Rhode Island makes a racket about one of the world's oldest ball games**

The city of Newport is home to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The former Newport Casino site, with its uniquely New England Shingle Style architecture, is the perfect setting to showcase the game's long and courtly history. The on-site Museum explores this from the 12th century roots of the games Jeu de Paume and the famously Tudor real tennis, both played indoors, to the history of the modern outdoor game beginning around 1859. Outside of the Museum, which is packed with artefacts from famous games, champions and more, the complex boasts 13 lawn courts as well as a selection of indoor and hard courts too.

The iconic Shingle Style architecture makes Rhode Island a perfect setting to celebrate tennis

Images ; Wiki Commons / NicoFlynn



> **"The weirdest chapter in its storied past is the New England Vampire Panic"**

The classic Rhode Island image is of seaside cottages, lighthouses, and Shingle Style mansions looking out peacefully over wild ocean and unspoiled countryside

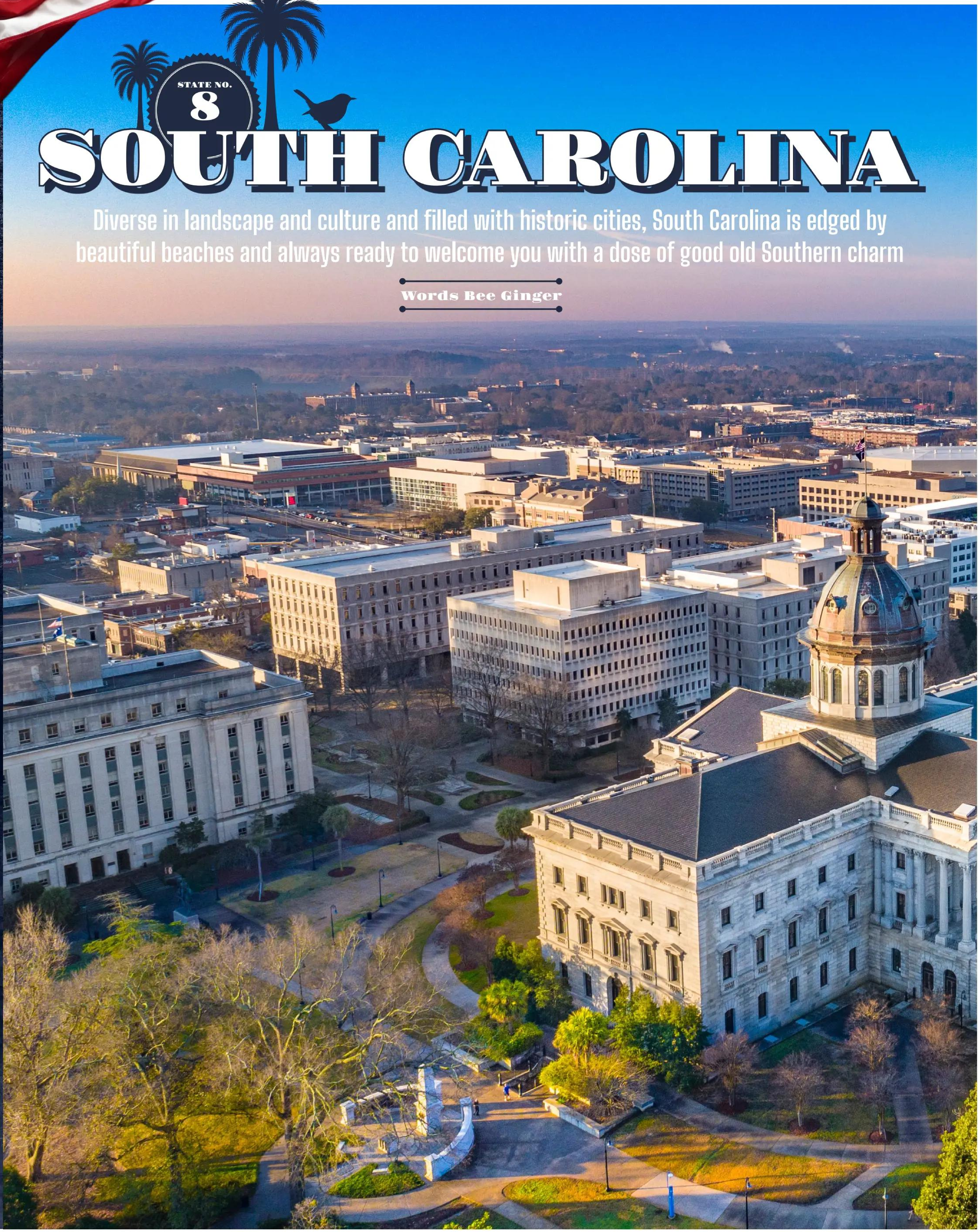
Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
8

# SOUTH CAROLINA

Diverse in landscape and culture and filled with historic cities, South Carolina is edged by beautiful beaches and always ready to welcome you with a dose of good old Southern charm

Words Bee Ginger

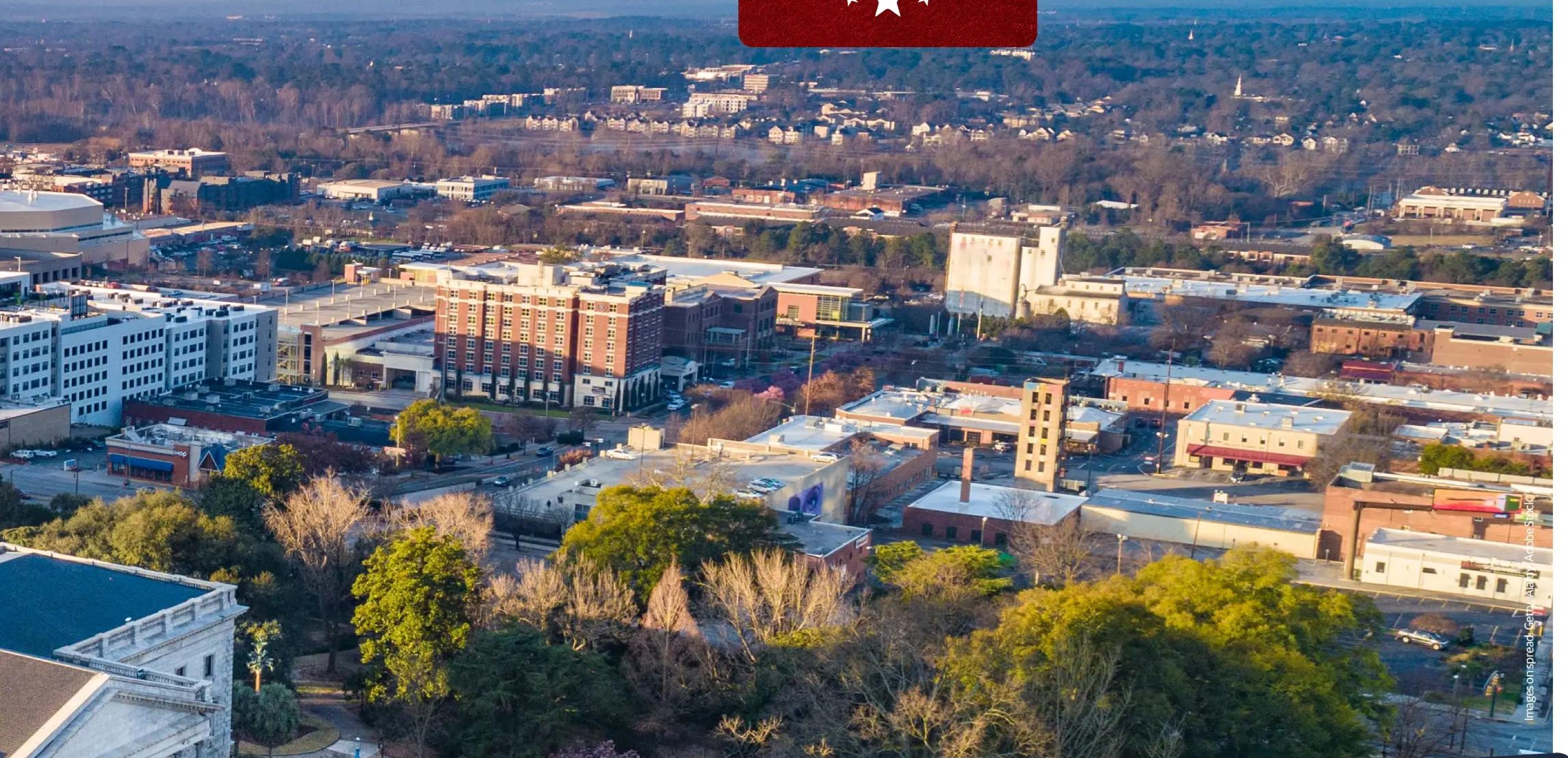


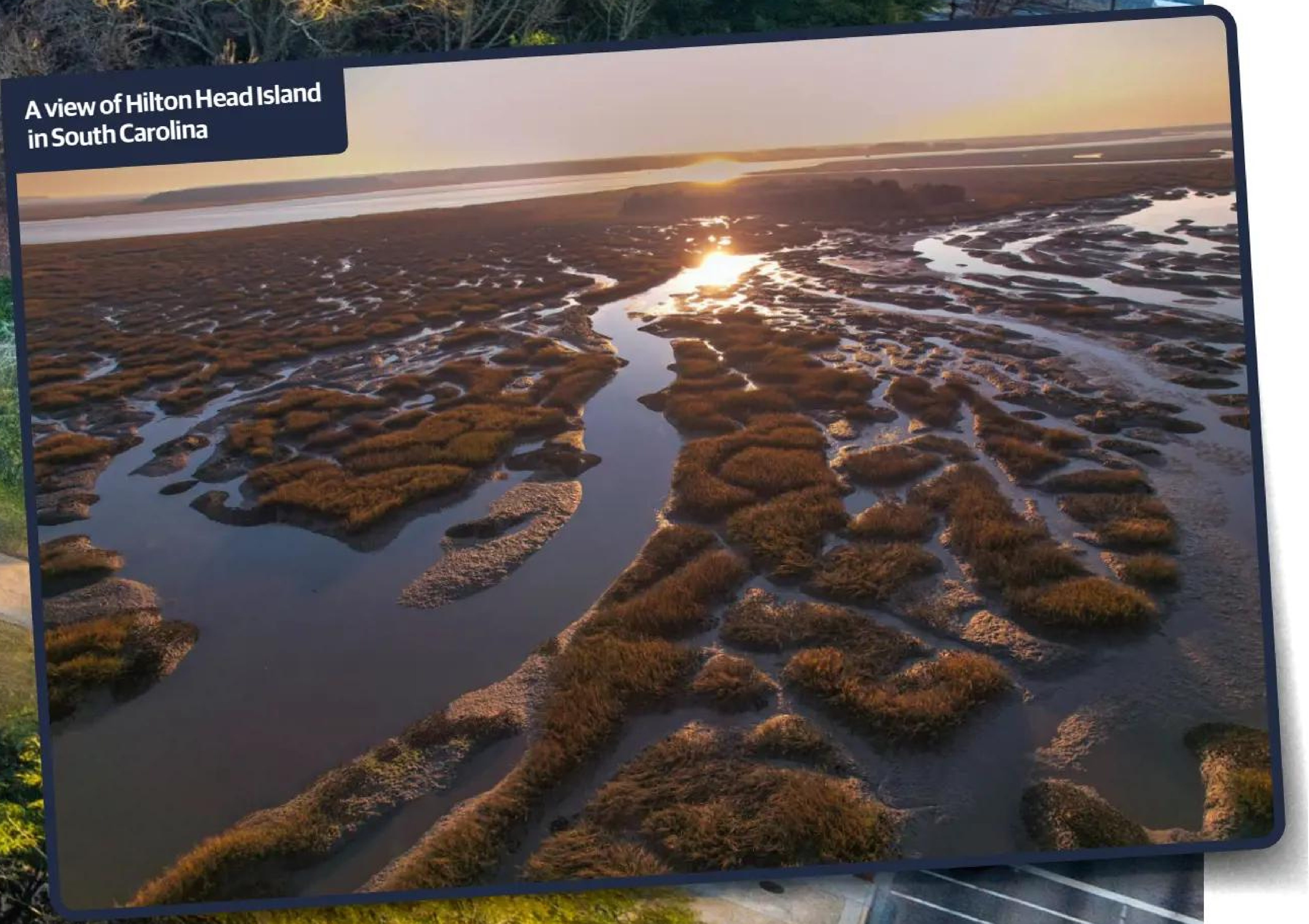
## BIO

**Nickname:** The Palmetto State
**Anthem:** 'Carolina' & 'South Carolina on My Mind'
**Admitted to the Union:** 23 May 1788
**Capital:** Columbia
**Population:** 5,569,830
**Sports franchises:** N/A

Previously known as the sovereign state in Confederation, South Carolina, now fondly nicknamed the Palmetto State, is vast and diverse, boasting a large variety of natural environments. Shaped by mountainous terrain leading down to the coastal plains that stop at the Atlantic Ocean, South Carolina features six individual geographic regions: the Coastal Zone, Inner and Outer Coastal Plain, Blue Ridge, Sandhills and Piedmont. The state's tourism slogan could not be more accurate – "Smiling Faces. Beautiful Places" – and indeed, there are a myriad of these beautiful places to visit and enjoy in South Carolina.

The region is divided into The Up Country and the Low Country, the latter is so called as the majority of the state sits below sea level. In addition the state also has approximately 34 marsh-like barriers and tidal islands and is home to numerous large bodies of water including Lake Murray, which is rumoured to have a mysterious water monster lurking in its depths known as 'Messie'.





A view of Hilton Head Island in South Carolina

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock

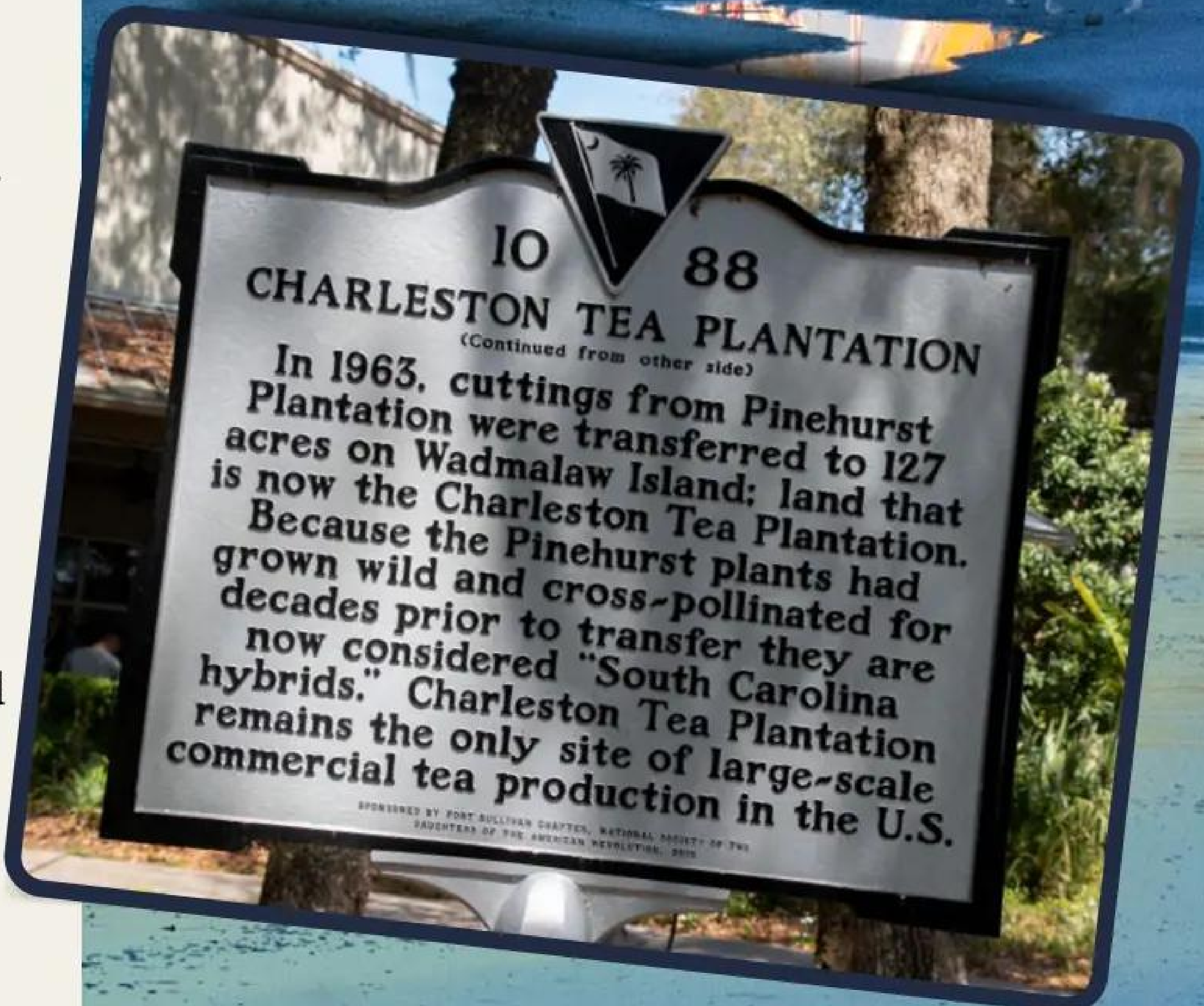
> **“It was also the first state to vote in favour of secession in late December 1860”**

Bordered by Georgia, North Carolina and the Atlantic Ocean, South Carolina was originally named in honour of the English King Charles I. The Carolinas were once under the rule of the British crown making them a royal colony ruled over by an appointed governor. However, independence was declared in 1776 following the American Revolution, and the state that had been marred by conflict with natives, corrupt officials, political upheaval and even avaricious pirates became the eighth one to uphold the Constitution on 23 May 1788, making South Carolina one of the original 13 states. It was also the first state to vote in favour of secession in late December 1860. South Carolina was readmitted into the Union, however, in July 1868 following the end of the Civil War, which had devastated the state. The economy was shattered and South Carolina had lost almost a fifth of its white male population. Interestingly, it was the textile industry that recovered first. Other key industries included cattle, tobacco, machinery, textiles manufacturing and of course peaches, and recently tourism has flourished, as has golf, which has long been a time-honoured game of choice in the Deep South, and the region is home to some of the world's best golf courses. Golf clubs were first documented to have been shipped to Charleston in 1739 when the first golf club in South Carolina opened its doors, with members teeing off on Harleston Green, not too far from the Ashley River. Its popularity has continued to grow and even expanded to mini golf. Myrtle Beach, located on the Atlantic coast, is regarded as the world's mini golf capital and is home to the US Pro Mini Golf Association Master's National Championship course and offers a further 50 mini golf courses to play on.

The region still enjoys a strong Gullah influence that is evident in both the sweet grass basket weaving and the food both brought to South Carolina by descendants of West African slaves. Local dishes like Hoppin' John, Chicken bog and Frogmore Stew combine with barbecue, which is said to have been introduced to the region by Spanish settlers along with pig, many believe South Carolina to be the birthplace of barbecue. One thing is for sure there are plenty of unique dishes to sample and enjoy. More commonly known is that the region is the birthplace of sweet tea, often referred to as the 'Champagne of the South'. While this refreshing icy and much-loved beverage is ideal for when you're relaxing on the porch. But despite its popularity, it isn't in fact the state's official drink. That honour is bestowed on good old milk. The Palmetto State in particular has numerous dairies and creameries open to the public.

South Carolina is home to a great deal of unique flora and fauna including 'champion trees', over a dozen of which can be found at the Congaree National Park, which boasts the highest concentration of champion trees in the whole of the US. These trees are incredibly important examples of their species due to their historical significance, enormous size, rarity or great age. The state tree is the cabbage palmetto (although technically not a tree as it does not have a solid wooden trunk) the fibrous and spongy wood of which was used to construct Fort Moultrie located on Sullivan's Island. During a battle on 28 June 1776 the wood from the fort absorbed the impact of cannonballs shot by the British this not only led to a crucial victory for the American colonists, but the fort also remained intact. The state is also home to Fort Jackson, the largest army installation for Basic Combat Training.

The region has also been the backdrop for many popular films including *The Notebook*, *Forest Gump* and *The Patriot* and is the birthplace of legendary singer James Brown, Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson and Professional baseball player Shoeless Joe Jackson. The pace of life feels a little more relaxed in the south and the region offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere to out-of-towners, here you are sure to enjoy a Southern welcome. ★



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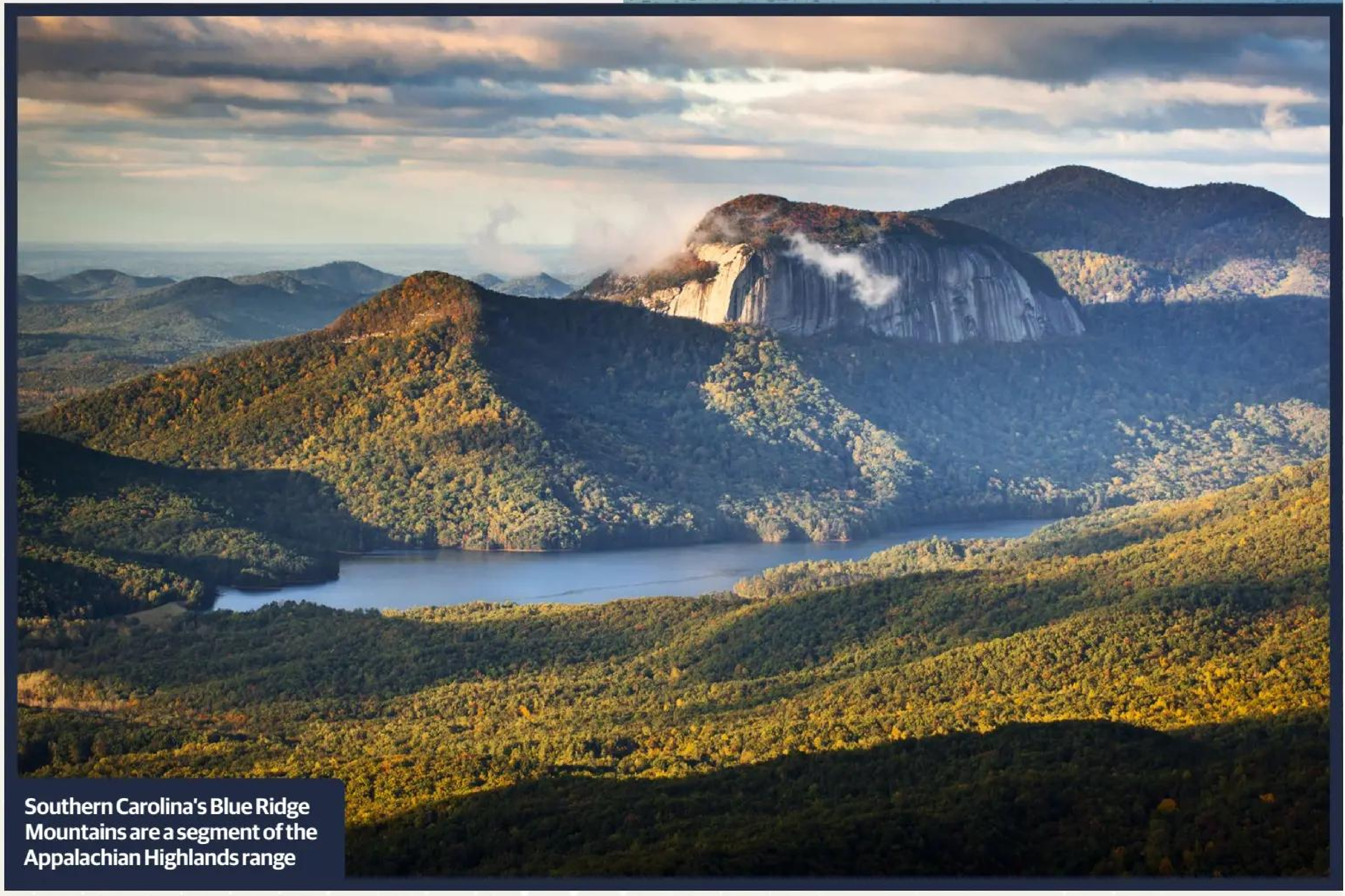
CHARLESTON TEA PLANTATION
(Continued from other side)

In 1963, cuttings from Pinehurst Plantation were transferred to 127 acres on Wadmalaw Island; land that is now the Charleston Tea Plantation. Because the Pinehurst plants had grown wild and cross-pollinated for decades prior to transfer they are now considered "South Carolina hybrids." Charleston Tea Plantation remains the only site of large-scale commercial tea production in the U.S.



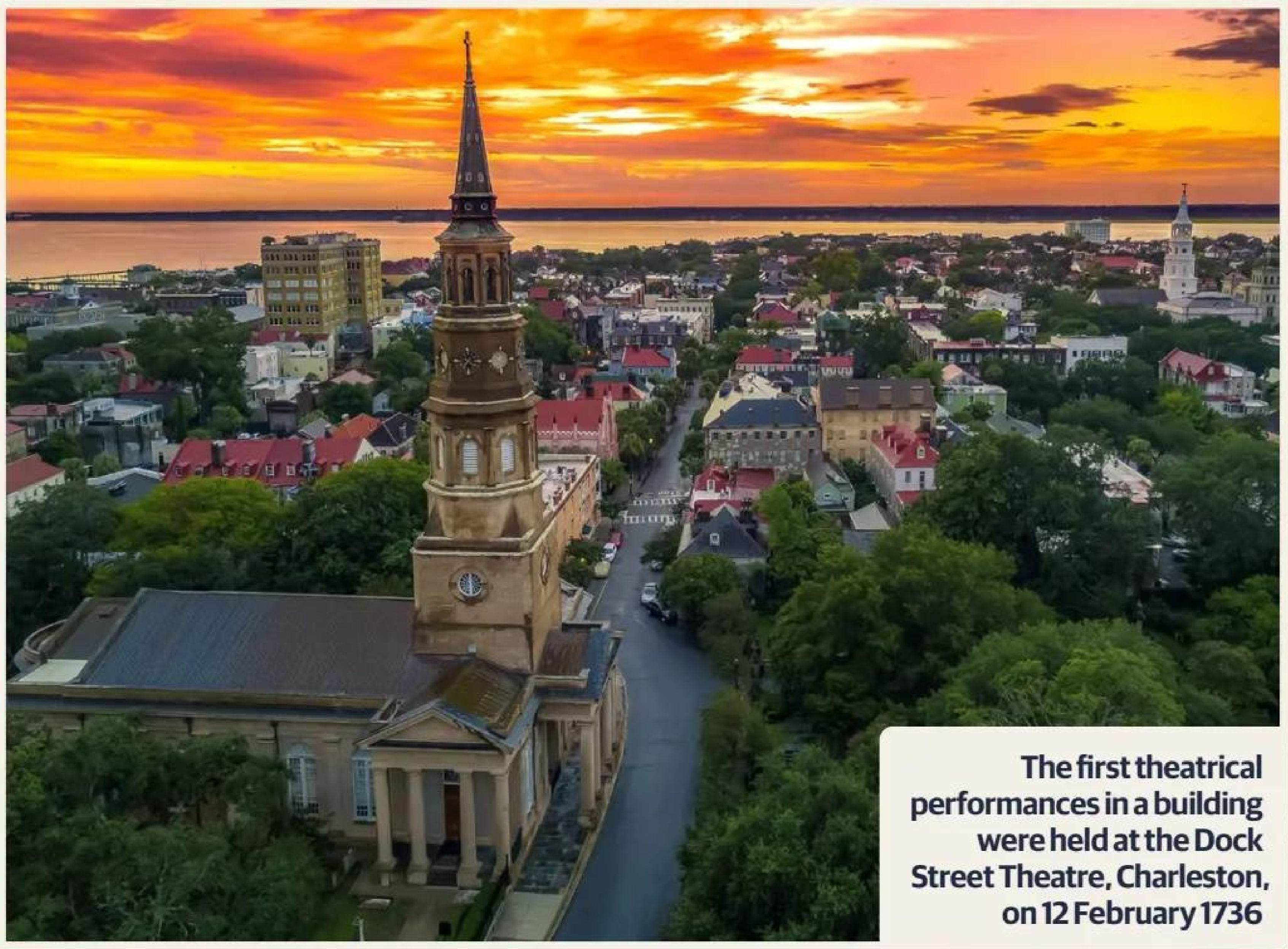
Southern Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains are a segment of the Appalachian Highlands range

South Carolina even has an official state dance called 'The Shag' which is popular with tourists and locals alike

South Carolina was the first state to have a commercial tea plantation

## CHARLESTON: THE EPITOME OF SOUTHERN CHARM

**Not only is Charleston the oldest city in South Carolina, the name sake of the popular 1920's dance she is also the holder of countless American 'firsts'**



The first theatrical performances in a building were held at the Dock Street Theatre, Charleston, on 12 February 1736

Famed for its warm and welcoming atmosphere the historic coastal and biggest city of Charleston easily captures the heart of anyone passing through her. Easily recognised and defined by her pastel coloured houses, cobblestone streets, well-preserved historic architecture, antebellum homes and old south plantations, Charleston remains an intriguing mixture of old South customs combined with a more modern and popular art scene. The elegant French Quarter and Battery districts are alive with art, culture and history and the State's annual arts festival, Spoleto Festival USA, is renowned across the country. Charleston is also home to The Charleston Museum, the first museum in the US, as well as the first theatre and the first public college. There is plenty to enjoy all year round, with many visitors to the city choosing to explore by horse-drawn carriage travelling along the main streets and down to Fort Sumter a federal stronghold in Charleston Harbour. It was here where the opening shots were fired heralding the Civil War, putting the port city on the map and solidifying her as an important centre of both culture and commerce in the region.

Images: Alamy; Getty

STATE NO. 40

# SOUTH DAKOTA

The home of Mount Rushmore and the Geographical Centre of the United States, South Dakota has a rich history involving Gold Rushes and Dust Bowls…

**Words Callum McKelvie**

## BIO

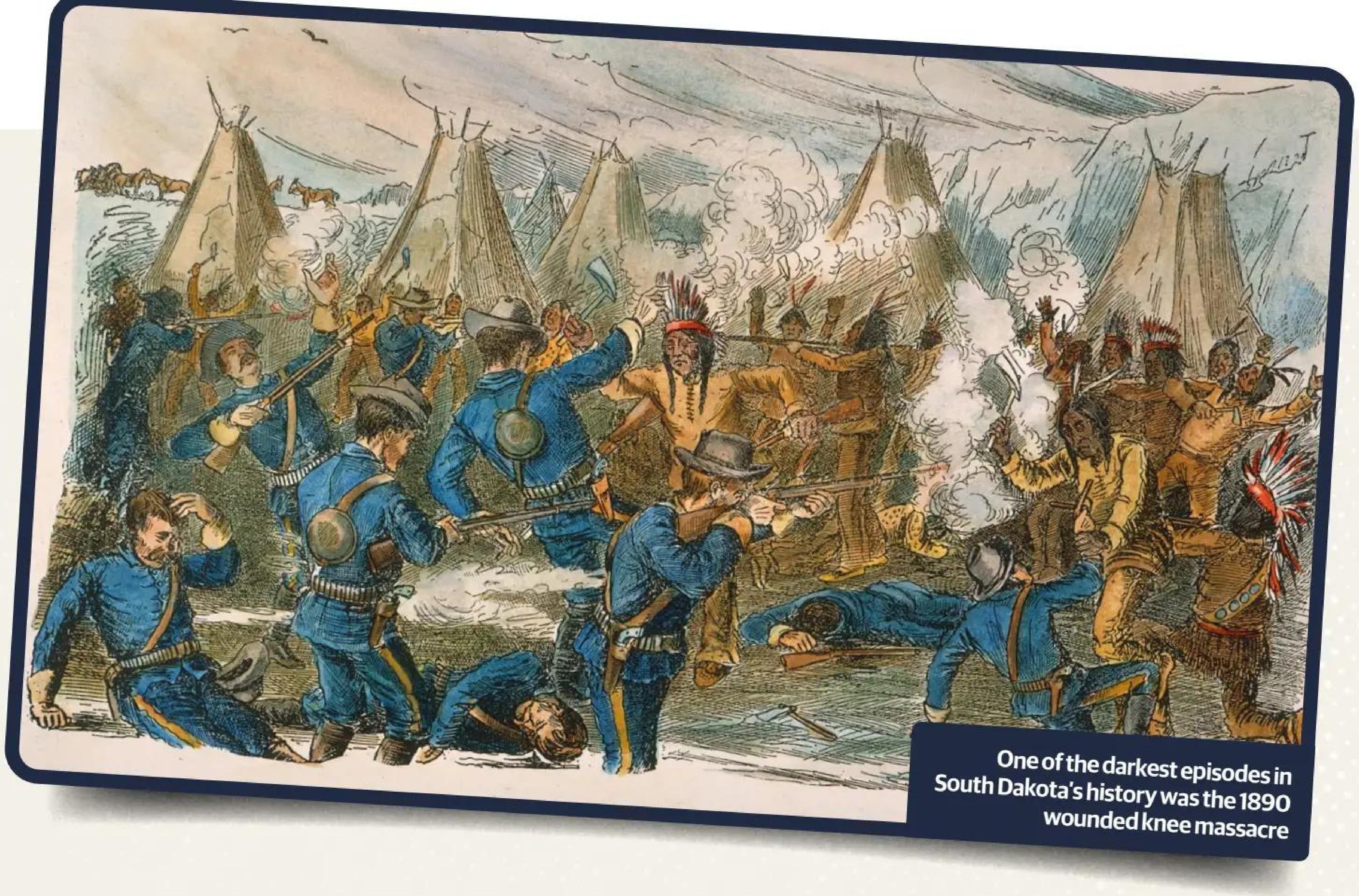
**Nickname:** The Mount Rushmore State
**Anthem:** 'Hail, South Dakota!'
**Admitted to the Union:** 2 November 1889
**Capital:** Pierre
**Population:** 924,669
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**In 1803, the still fledgling United States made a deal with Napoleon Bonaparte to acquire 530,000,000 acres of territory.** Known as the Louisiana Purchase, for a price of $15 million the size of the US doubled overnight and among the obtained land was the future state of South Dakota.

71 years later, the area saw a flurry of activity following George Armstrong Custer's discovery of gold in the Black Hills, as hordes of eager prospectors flocked there in an attempt to recreate his success. The subsequent Gold Rush, the earlier Homestead Act of 1862 (which provided 160 acres of free land to would-be farmers) and the construction of new railways, led to the 'Great Dakota Boom', with the population increasing from 80,000 in 1878 to 325,000 by 1887.

In November 1889, South Dakota became the 40th State admitted to the Union and Pierre was chosen as its temporary capital. Over the subsequent decades other cities jealously vied for this position, notably Huron, but to no avail and in 1904, Pierre's State Senate was constructed. In 1898, South Dakota became the first State to introduce both the Referendum and Initiative as tools of democracy.

Unfortunately in 1890, the State's ascension would be somewhat blighted by one of the most violent episodes in its history; the Wounded Knee Massacre. Members of the US military were attempting to disarm a group of Ghost Dancers – a religious movement popular among indigenous peoples of the time – but instead a bloodbath occurred. The massacre saw approximately 300 of the Lakota

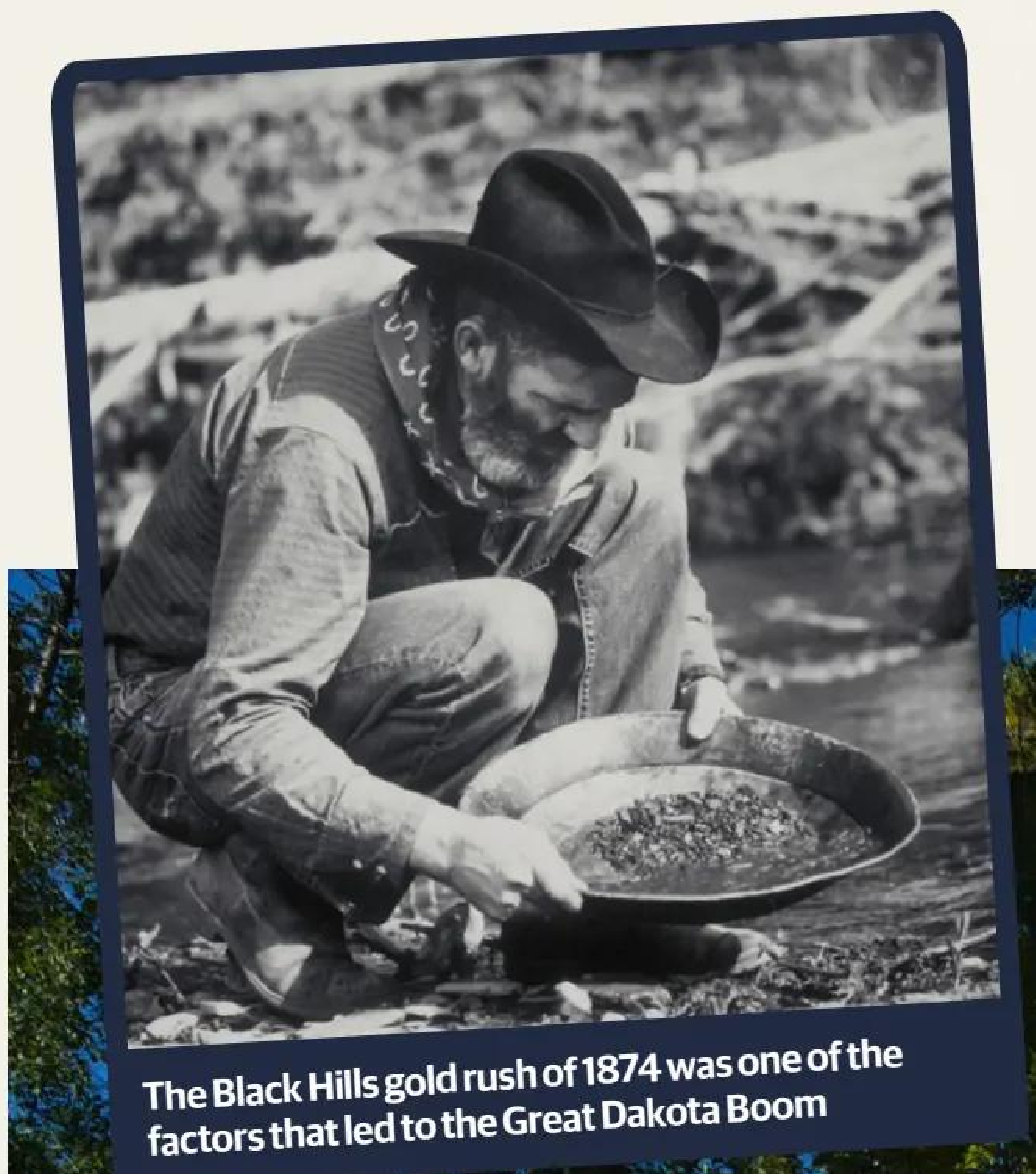


One of the darkest episodes in South Dakota's history was the 1890 wounded knee massacre

peoples, men, women and children, slaughtered. 82 years later in 1973, a group of 200 members of the American Indian Movement occupied the site for a period of 71 days.

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression pushed many Americans into financial hardship. In South Dakota this problem was exacerbated by a period of drought between 1930 and 1936. Nicknamed 'The Dust Bowl', many of the homesteads were ravaged by dust storms which saw 2.5 million people migrate out of South Dakota and the other affected States.

A more positive moment in the States' history occurred in 1941, when work concluded on the Mount Rushmore monument. Seven years later, Korczak Ziolkowski started a monument of his own, to the Lakota chief Crazy Horse – the largest mountain carving in the world and still under construction. In 1959, when Hawaii and Alaska became the 49th and 50th States, South Dakota found itself home to the very heart of the nation, with the US's geographic centre now located in Belle Fourche. ★



The Black Hills gold rush of 1874 was one of the factors that led to the Great Dakota Boom

## THE SHRINE OF DEMOCRACY

**Despite being a world-famous landmark, Mount Rushmore was never finished**

During the 1920s, South Dakota State Historian Doane Robinson decided that what the state desperately needed was more tourism. But how to coax them to visit? For that South Dakota needed an attraction; a big one. Having read of mountain carvings in Georgia, he contacted Sculptor Gutzon Borglum. In 1927, Borglum began carving the vast faces of the four presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. Famously, the carvings at Mount Rushmore were intended to be far larger, showing the presidents down to waist. However, Borglum died before it could be completed and despite his son overseeing some additional works, it was largely left unfinished.

The State Capitol was constructed in Pierre in 1904

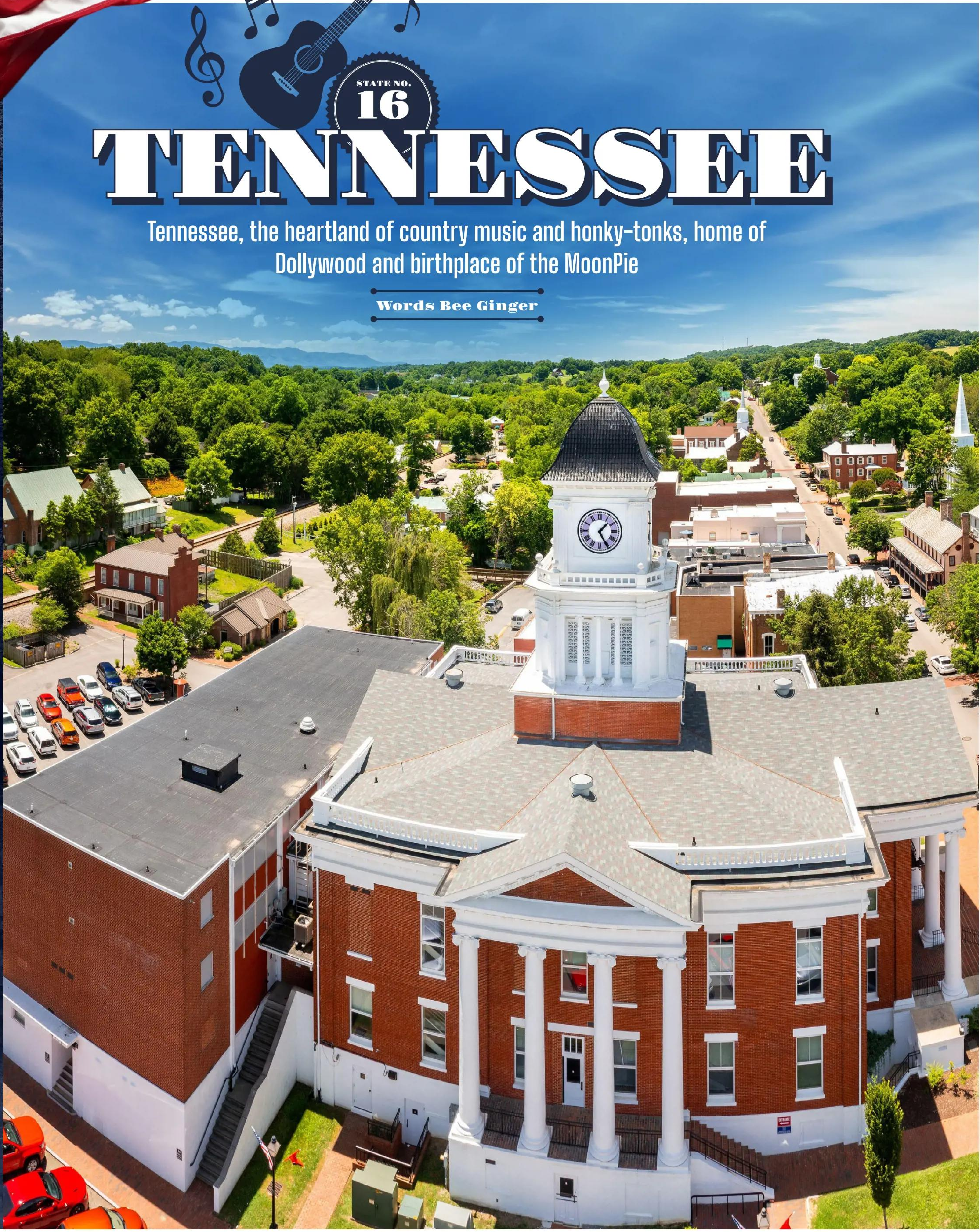
Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
16

# TENNESSEE

Tennessee, the heartland of country music and honky-tonks, home of Dollywood and birthplace of the MoonPie

Words Bee Ginger



## BIO

**Nickname:** The Volunteer State
**Anthem:** 'My Homeland, Tennessee', 'Rocky Top'
**Admitted to the Union:** 1 June 1796
**Capital:** Nashville
**Population:** 7,227,750
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Tennessee Titans
NBA: Memphis Grizzlies
NHL: Nashville Predators

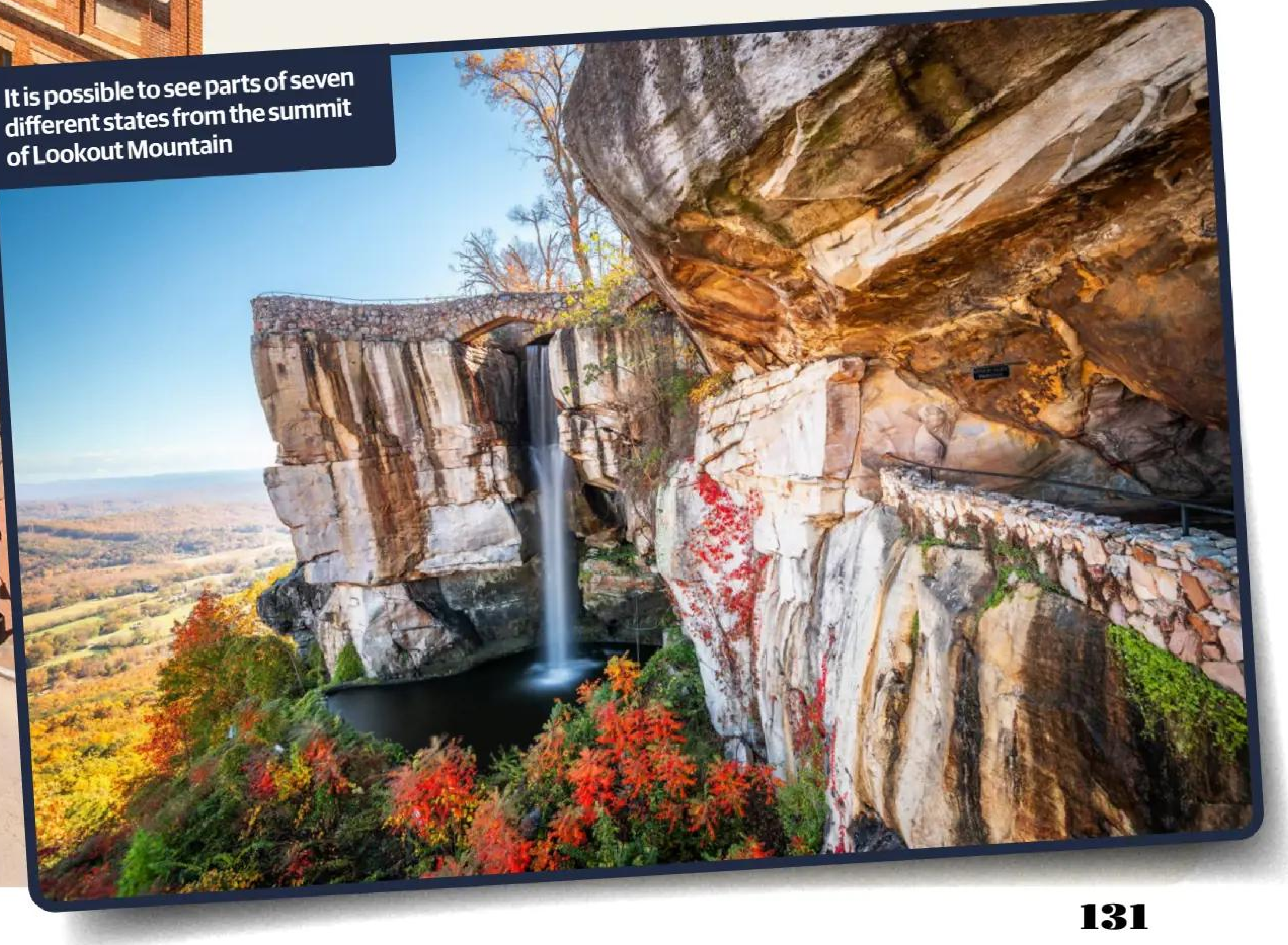
★ ★ ★

**Tennessee can best be described as a state filled with a rich, compelling history, cultural diversity and a hidden beauty that makes one of America's older states all the more fascinating.** This breathtakingly beautiful region is home to numerous national parks with unique natural features, like the The Lost Sea, the largest underground lake located in Sweetwater, and the Great Smoky Mountains (the Smokies), which are said to be the salamander capital of the world and most visited national park in the whole of the US. The state slogan proudly announces that Tennessee is "America at its Best!" and it would be hard to disagree. Bordered by eight other states Tennessee has three very individual regions, West, East and Middle Tennessee. Its name is said to originate from the Native American Tansqui or Tanasi, which some believe to mean "beautiful princess" while others believe it means "where the river bends". One thing is for sure; in this state there are plenty of rivers and large bodies of water.

Creaks, streams and rivers flow through Tennessee covering over 60,417 miles. The Cumberland and Tennessee rivers have played crucial historical roles and been integral waterways for the transportation of goods and commercial shipping. An estimated 28,000 barges still travel this vital waterway each year, their loads weighing as much as 50 million tons. Tennessee's motto of "Agriculture and Commerce" continues to shine through when it comes to its key industries with corn, cotton, soybeans, cattle and poultry remaining an important part of the overall economy. During the infancy of the Industrial Revolution, Tennessee became known as a powerhouse in a number of agricultural industries including manufacturing and tobacco, and later entertainment and education. Motor vehicles, energy, healthcare and tourism also play a huge part in putting Tennessee on the world map.

Six major mountain ranges spread across the region including the Bald Mountains and the Unicoi

Proudly flying the flag for the Southeast, Tennessee's flag shows three stars each representing the states major geographic regions; Middle, East and West



It is possible to see parts of seven different states from the summit of Lookout Mountain

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Source: Wikipedia Commons / Public Domain

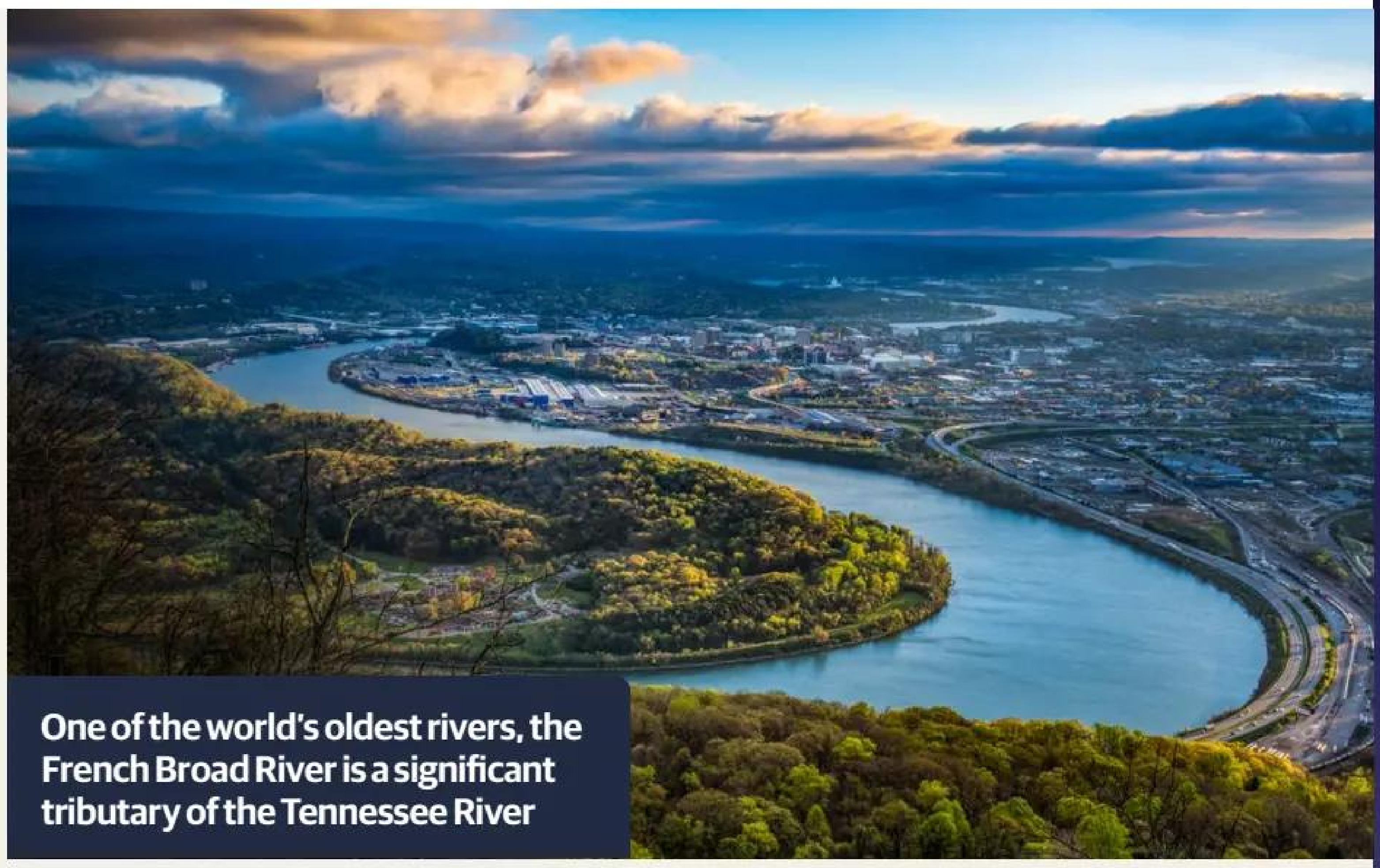
Mountains, these are teeming with unique and abundant flora and fauna. The state provides home to an incredible 325 species of freshwater fish, 340 species of birds, and countless reptiles, mammals and amphibians. Over half of the land area is covered by forests, with the dominant trees being oak – hickory, a key ingredient in one of the state's most famous exports; good old fashioned Tennessee whisky. Prior to the Civil War, moonshine and whiskey were staples of the region and the state had numerous registered distilleries, however, once the laws of prohibition came into force, many were forced to close. It wasn't until many years later that rules and regulations were lifted and production could once again fully resume. True Tennessee whiskey cannot be made elsewhere, and must be created using a distinct charring process which is crucial for the development of the flavour. Charred oak barrels and hickory staves combined with precise aging and timing make it more than just a label, but a labour of love and an important part of the state's identity.

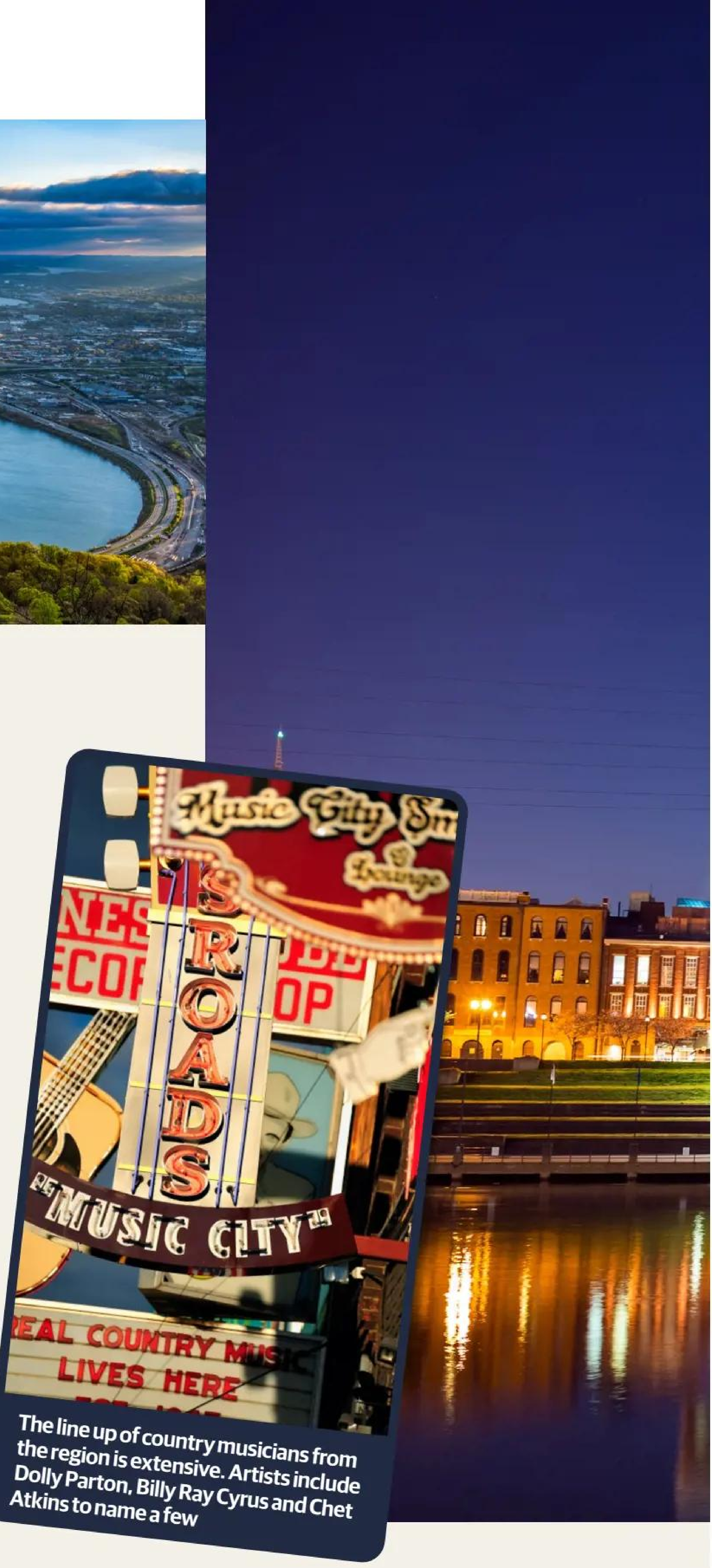
Tennessee has an impressive 95 counties, the largest of which is Shelby County, with the largest city Nashville having the highest concentration of establishments dedicated to the music industry in the whole of the US. Although Nashville has the nickname of 'Music City' it is not the birthplace of country music, that title belongs to Bristol, Tennessee the true and official 'Birthplace of Country Music'. Located in the very heart of Appalachia along the Tennessee – Virginia border Bristol remains the beating heart of country, folk music and the blues.

Many famous names hail from the region including Country music singers Dolly Parton and Kenny Rodgers. The King himself, Elvis Prestley, resided in the state at his home Graceland, Memphis, which is visited by almost as many tourists each year as the White House. Three of the country's presidents also hailed from Tennessee, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk. Combining Tennessee's rich musical heritage with its colourful political history can only lead to one thing; the use of catchy songs and jingles in election campaigns with many pop and country stars using music to advocate for their chosen candidate.

1 June 1796 marked the day that Tennessee officially became a state, the 16th in fact. In a dramatic turn of events, however, it also became the last state to secede from the Union during the Civil War to join the Confederacy in 1861. The following year heralded a further change in direction and the state was readmitted on 24 July 1866. Tennessee is very aptly named the Volunteer State due to the large number of soldiers who bravely put themselves forward during the War of 1812 and have subsequently continued to do so when called for. This region in particular has numerous historical connections to the American Revolution. Interestingly, it was under British rule that colonists were not permitted to travel further than the Appalachian Mountains, understandably this ruling prompted numerous battles one of which was The Battle of Long Island Flats. Notably, several other important battles were fought within Tennessee including the Battle of Stones River, and the Battle of Shiloh.

So much rich history and time spent in the great outdoors will definitely help to work up an appetite, and local cuisine is definitely worth exploring especially if you have a sweet tooth. The official candy of choice in Nashville is a Goo Goo Cluster, a delightful combination of milk chocolate with caramel, nuts and nougat enjoyed since 1912. Another Tennessee favourite, the MoonPie, a combination of gram cracker and marshmallow covered in chocolate and enjoyed alongside an RC Cola is an absolute must. First created by the Chattanooga Bakery in 1917 this delicious offering even has its own live music festival each year. During WWII, it was used as an ideal ration item for the many servicemen and women serving their country overseas. Memphis BBQ, Meat and Three, Stack Cake and catfish are all firm favourites of the area along with cotton candy, which ironically was invented by Dentist William Morrison in 1897. It is safe to say that in Tennessee there is something to whet even the most discerning pallet. ★


One of the world's oldest rivers, the French Broad River is a significant tributary of the Tennessee River



The line up of country musicians from the region is extensive. Artists include Dolly Parton, Billy Ray Cyrus and Chet Atkins to name a few

There are more caverns and caves spread across Tennessee than any other state with many dating back thousands of years

The iconic AT&T building in Nashville, designed by Earl S. Swensson, is fondly nicknamed the 'Batman Building'

# THE GRAND OLE OPRY, NASHVILLE

**Experience the past, present and future all in one auspicious location**

You might think that the world famous Grand Ole Opry is only a landmark for fans of country music. You would be mistaken, however, as it also broadcasts the longest running radio show in the United States. *The Grand Ole Opry* radio show is famed for hosting performances of all different genres of music from folk and the blues, to pop, rock and roll and everything in between. The show, which was founded on 28 November 1925 by George D. Hay, originally under the title of *WSM Barn Dance*, has been broadcasting every Saturday without fail for almost 100 years – amounting in excess of 5,175 episodes and playing approximately 6,000 songs each year. So hold your horses before y'all leave the Southeast and take a moment to enjoy some local fare whilst listening to the Opry on the radio out on the front porch.

The most prestigious award ceremony in the world of country music, The Country Music Awards is located and celebrated in Nashville

Images: Alamy; Getty

STATE NO. 28

# TEXAS

Steeped in a history of storied growth and adventure, Texas is prominent among the 50 states

Words Michael E. Haskew

**Second only to Alaska in size among the 50 states, Texas encompasses 268,597 square miles (695,662 km²) and is the largest of the lower 48 states.** An old saying goes that "everything is bigger in Texas." While such a proclamation may be a bit exaggerated, there is truth in recognizing that the Lone Star State is rich in history and influential today, with a heritage and promise whose breadth is every bit as deep and wide as its colourful heritage.

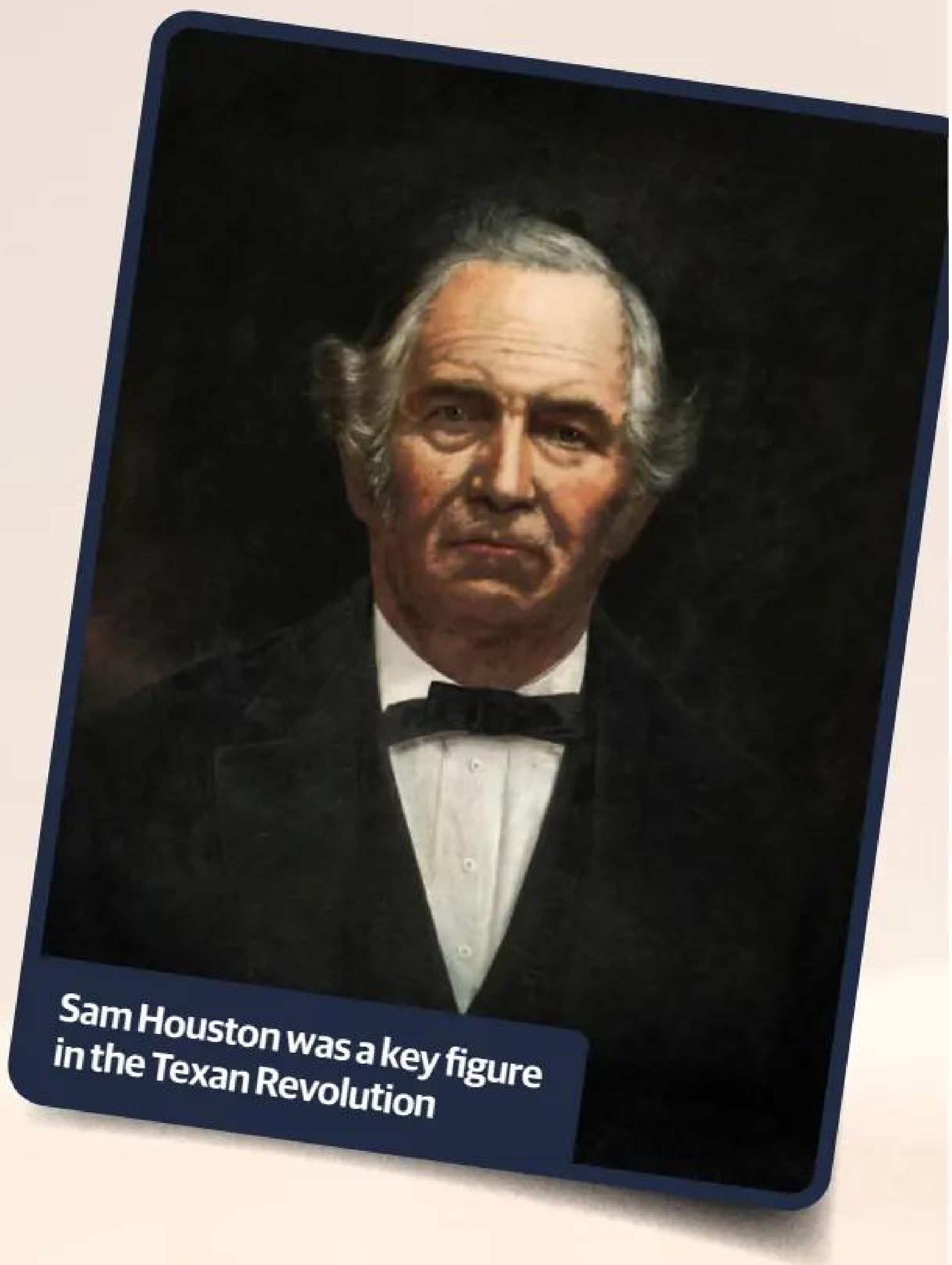
The 28th state admitted to the Union, Texas officially lowered its historic flag of national independence and raise the Stars and Stripes in the capital city of Austin on 29 December 1845, following nearly a decade as a sovereign nation. A small portion of Texas had been included in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, concluded by President Thomas Jefferson with Napoleonic France. However, much of the territory that became the state of Texas had once been the possession of Spain, and before that, Mexico. Texas declared independence from Mexico in 1836 following a war of revolution, breaking the political tie that had bound its future for the previous 15 years.

Sam Houston, leader of the Texan army that won the decisive victory of the war for independence at the Battle of San Jacinto, was a key figure in the movement for Texas statehood and served as the first president of the Republic of Texas. Houston later became a staunch advocate for annexation. Other prominent players were James Pinckney Henderson, elected first governor of the state of Texas in 1845, Mirabeau B. Lamar, second president of the Republic of Texas and also well-known for his advocacy of public education, and José Antonio Navarro, a leader of the revolution and principal drafter of the constitution that established the proposed state government.

The names of other famous Texans resonate across the history of the state and indeed the nation. These include Colonel William B. Travis and

## BIO

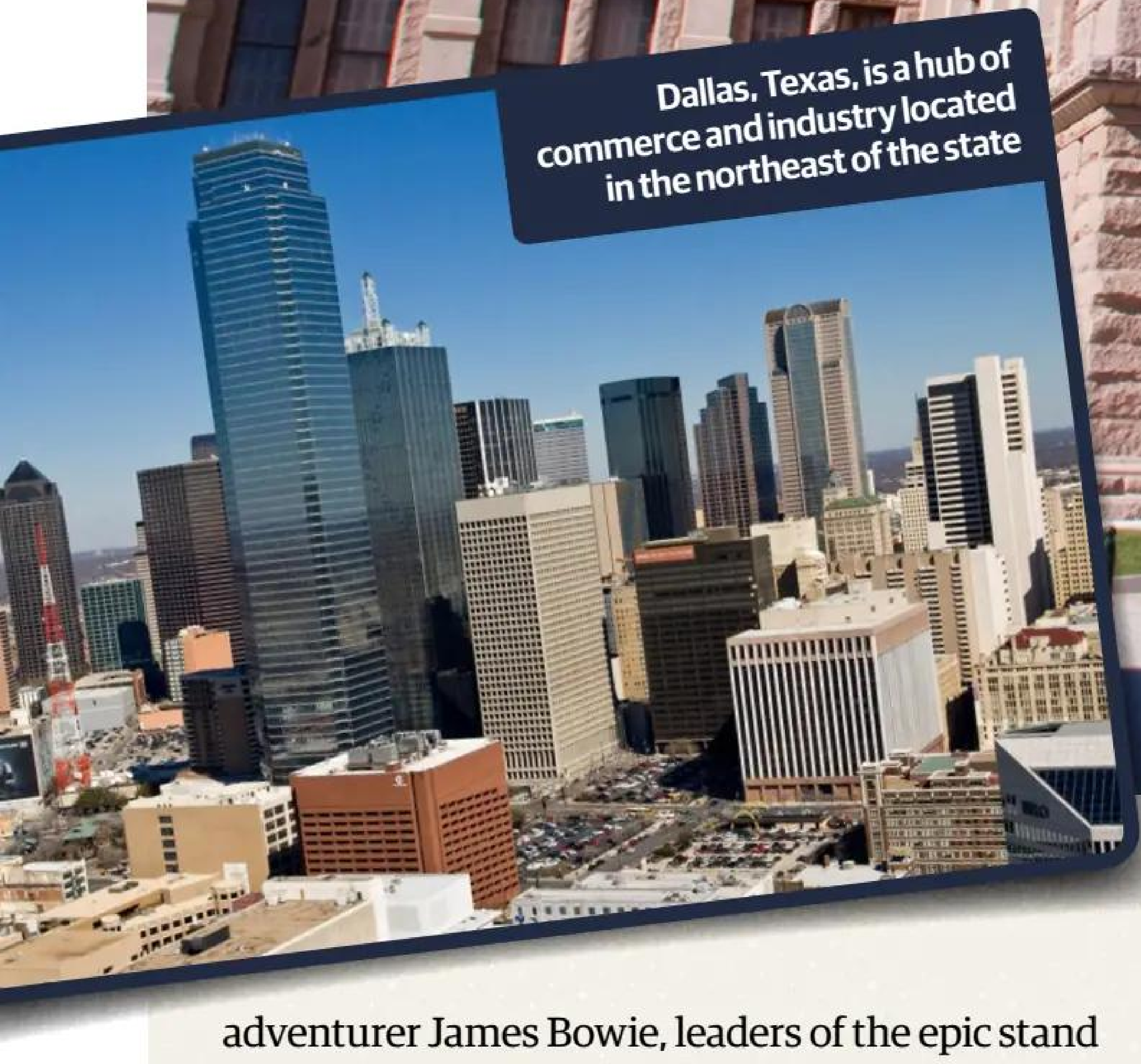
**Nickname:** Lone Star State
**Anthem:** 'Texas, Our Texas'
**Admitted to the Union:** 29 December 1845
**Capital:** Austin
**Population:** 31,290,831
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Dallas Cowboys, Houston Texans
NBA: Dallas Mavericks, Houston Rockets, San Antonio Spurs
MLB: Houston Astros, Texas Rangers


Sam Houston was a key figure in the Texan Revolution

**Main** A view of the incredible skyline in Austin, Texas

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Adobe Stock

The Texas State Capitol building in Austin



Dallas, Texas, is a hub of commerce and industry located in the northeast of the state

adventurer James Bowie, leaders of the epic stand at the Alamo in February 1836, Stephen F. Austin, known to many as the 'Father of Texas,' a leader of the revolution and the subsequent widespread settlement of the vast countryside. Political activist Juan Seguin, frontiersman and native Tennessean Davy Crockett, and war hero Thomas Jefferson Rusk are also among the towering figures of Texas history.

## Republic And Settlement

European and Mexican influence shaped the early history of Texas and remained influential in the modern culture and heritage of its people. During the mid-19th century an influx of American settlers led primarily by Moses Austin, father of Stephen, established numerous colonies in Texas with the permission of the Spanish government. Volunteers from the US augmented the Texan forces during the revolution, and many of these chose to settle in the new republic. Soon afterward, the movement for statehood gained momentum, but Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren initially opposed the admission of Texas due to fears of war with Mexico and the addition of a large slave state that might disturb the delicate balance of power in Congress during the restive period.

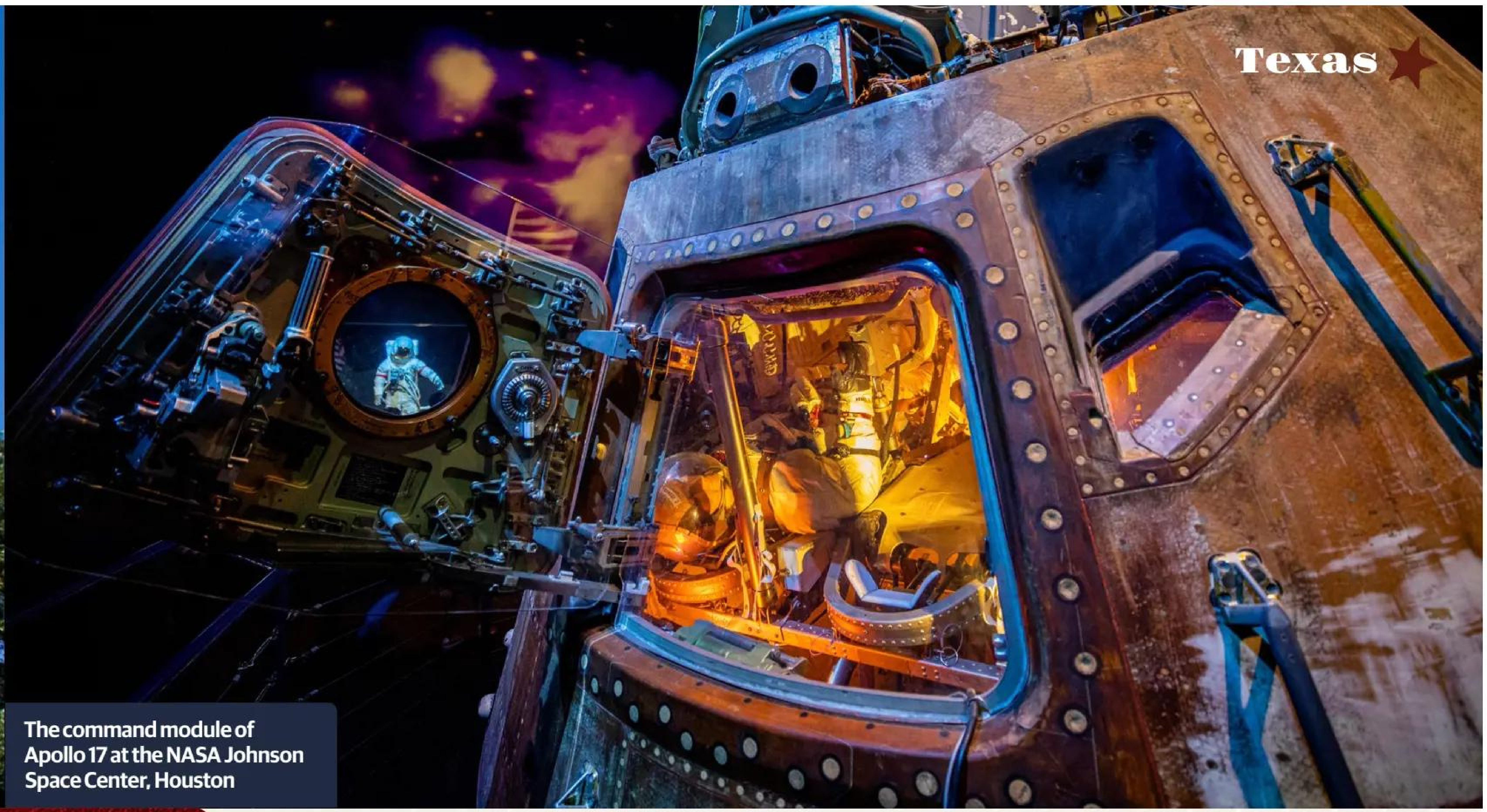
Border disputes with Mexico followed annexation and lead to war with Mexico lasting from 1846 to 1848. Mexican claims to Texas territory were extinguished with the US victory the following year. However, political turmoil led to secession from the United States on 28 January 1861. At the time, about 30 percent of the 604,000 inhabitants of Texas were enslaved. The state's economy was largely agricultural, and one of its principal crops was cotton, which demanded cheap labour.

After the war, Texas was readmitted to the Union under a new constitution on 30 March 1870, following the period of Reconstruction.

> "Political turmoil led to secession from the United States"

The Fort Worth Stock Yards draw thousands of visitors to Texas each year

Images : Alamy; Getty;



The command module of Apollo 17 at the NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston

## Population And Prosperity

Through the dawn of the 20th century, the Texas population and economy boomed. The state became a centre of the cattle industry and the evolution of the American West. Large herds were driven across the plains to markets and the epic of the American Cowboy was nurtured during the era. Railroad construction boomed, farming spread through the central portion of the state, and manufacturing gained new impetus following the investment of significant capital.

By 1900, the population of Texas had ballooned to more than three million. Major cities such as Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin expanded rapidly, while Galveston was established as a major US port of entry.

In 1901, oil was discovered at Spindletop near the city of Beaumont. In the coming years, oil companies invested and the refining and petrochemical industries stimulated substantial economic growth and personal and corporate wealth.

Job creation continued through the years, slowed by the Great Depression and the drain on manpower by the armed services during World War II, but Texas had been established as a cornerstone of the national economy and an essential component of the US pre-eminence in the global marketplace.

During the last half of the 20th century, Texas became a hub of the technology and aerospace industries. In addition to this, its population more than quadrupled in size between 1900 and 1980, reaching over 14 million. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) established the

The Alamo in San Antonio is preserved as a shrine to its heroes of Texas

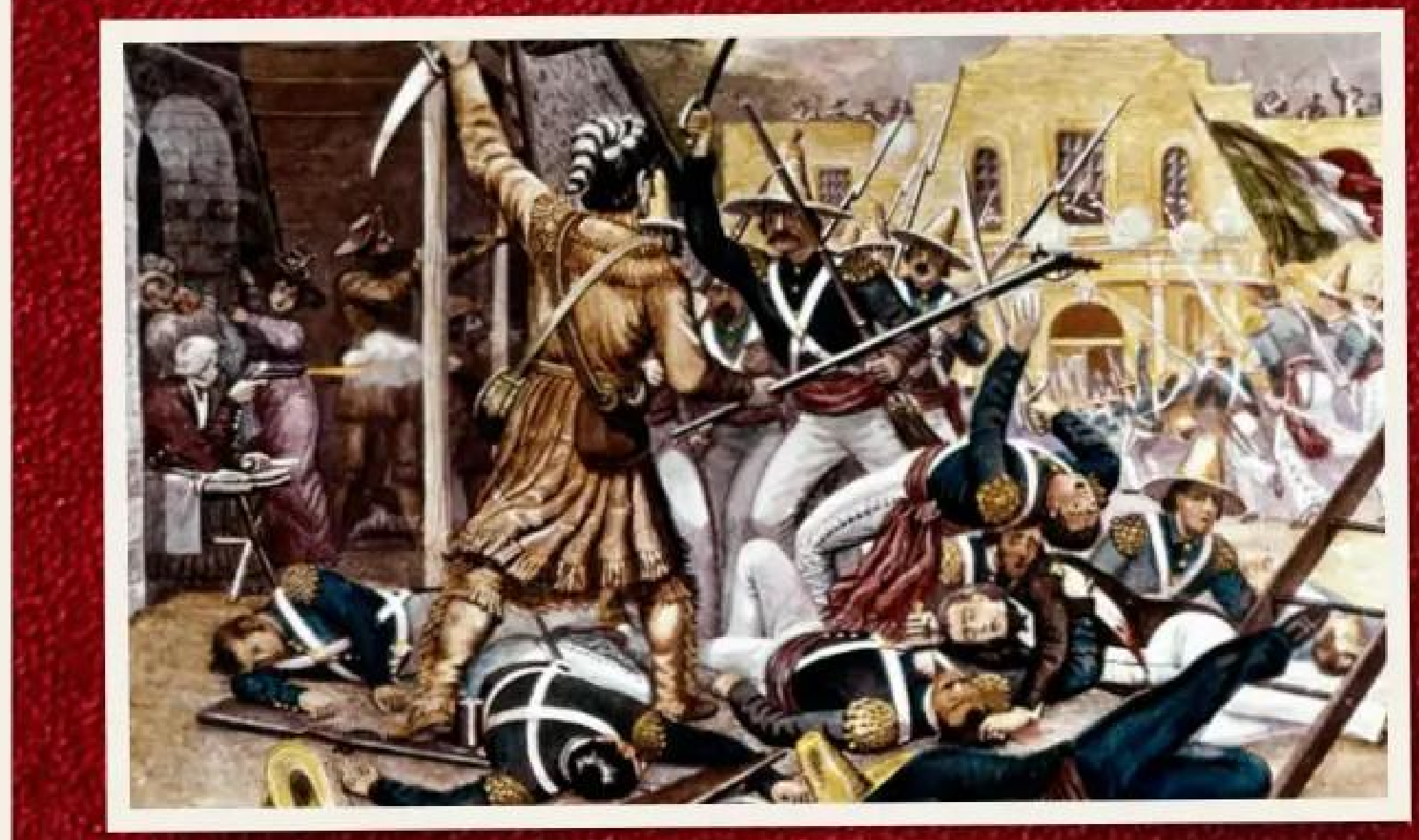
## EPIC STAND AT THE ALAMO

**Heavily outnumbered, a determined band of Texans held the old Spanish mission for 13 days**

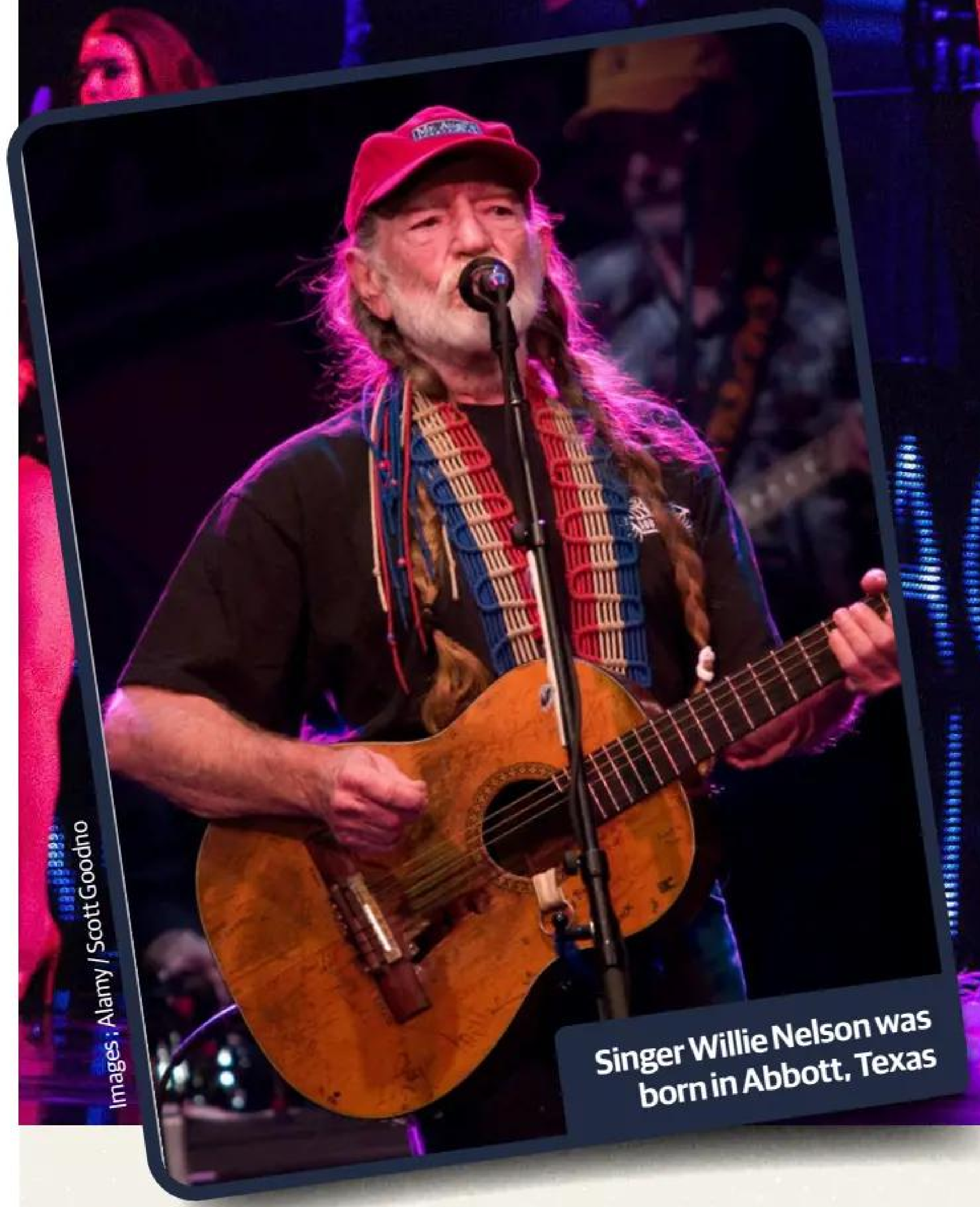
They are believed to have died to a man, but in doing so the defenders of the Alamo, an old Spanish mission in San Antonio, Texas, etched their names in immortality and inspired the future fighters for independence to decisive victory months later.

When the Mexican Army under President and General Antonio López de Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande, over 1000 men strong, its mission was a straightforward one – to destroy the revolutionary Texas forces and crush the rebellion that had erupted in open hostilities in late 1835. When the Mexican host reached the Alamo, it appeared to be only a slight impediment to their belligerent advance.

However, the Texans, numbering only about 260 at their greatest strength, refused to retreat, surrender, or yield their hastily fortified position. Led by Colonel William Travis, adventurer Jim Bowie, and Tennessee frontiersman Davy Crockett who brought a handful of volunteers to the scene, the defenders held the might of the Mexican military at bay for 13 days, finally succumbing to an all-out attack that ended the siege on 6 March 1836.



Beyoncé is one of the world's most famous Texans



Singer Willie Nelson was born in Abbott, Texas

Images : Alamy / Scott Goodno

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1961, while Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman are among the major aerospace and defence concerns with significant operations in the state.

Today, the Texas economy is one of the world's largest with a gross domestic product estimated at $2.7 trillion, roughly equivalent to that of Italy. Texas continues to experience a rise in population with many new residents lured to the state by the promise of opportunity.

## Iconic Spirit And Culture

Modern Texas is a kaleidoscope of blended cultures and lifestyles. While Texans take pride in their varied heritage, the state's own identity is popularised by the enduring symbolism of the cowboy and the American West, sprawling oil fields, longhorn cattle, Tex-Mex cuisine, celebrations of the arts, and a perpetual eye on the future.

Texans enjoy athletic competition in the form of Major League Baseball, National Football League, and National Basketball Association franchises in the Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio areas. The University of Texas, with its famed anthem 'The Eyes of Texas,' an unofficial state song, and Texas A&M University, home of the Aggie football team's '12th Man,' nurture a spirited rivalry, while other centres of higher education include Baylor University, Texas Tech, Rice, the University of Houston, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, and many more.

The list of famous Texans of the modern era includes three US presidents, Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush and his son, George W. Bush, while Sam Rayburn served as Speaker of the US House of Representatives for an astonishing 17 years. Actors and entertainers who call Texas home include Steve Martin, Matthew McConaughey, Tommy Lee Jones, Sandra Bullock, and Dennis Quaid, while music superstars George Strait, Willie Nelson, and Beyoncé also hail from the Lone Star State. ★

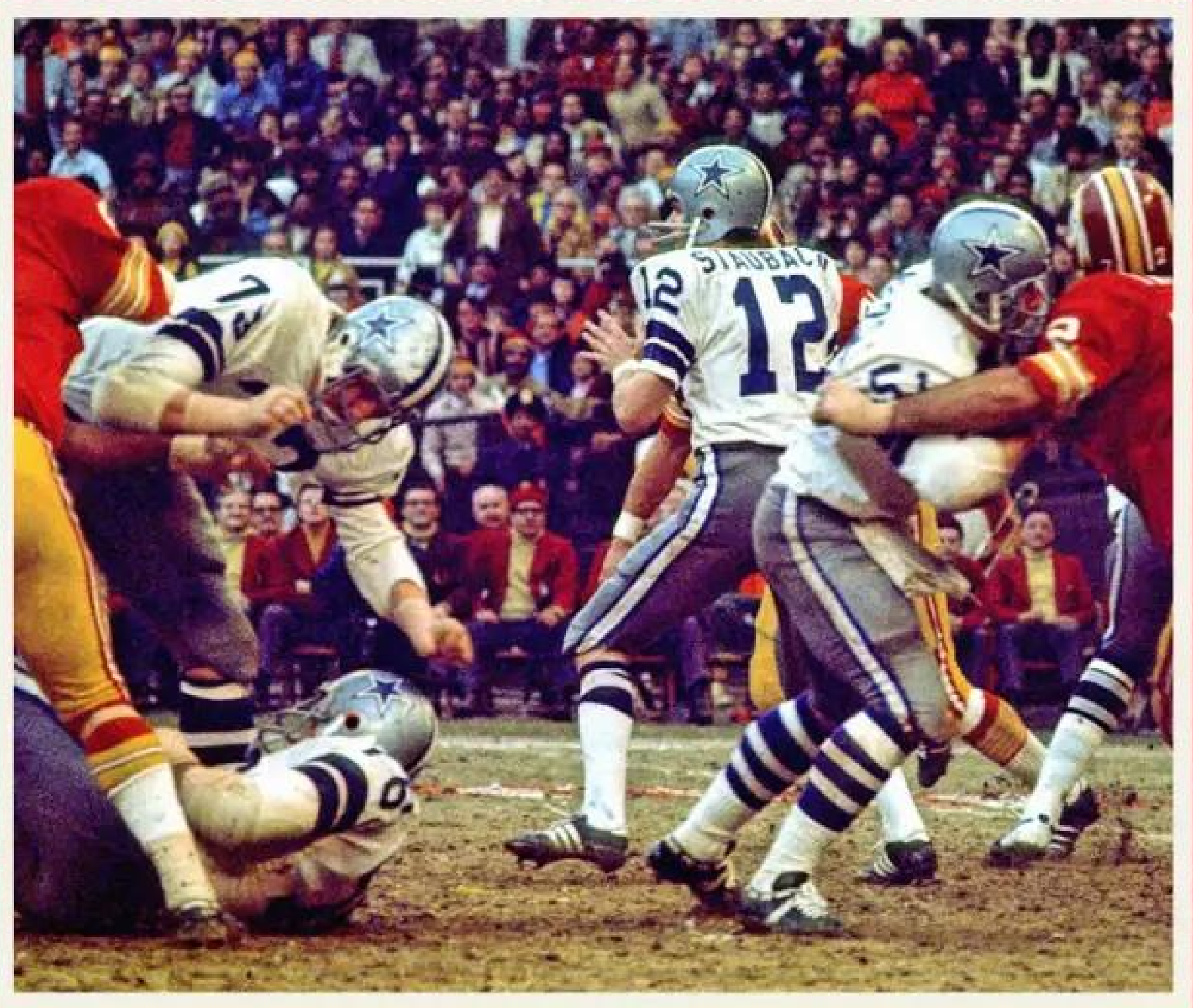
Images : Alamy / Associated Press;

## DALLAS COWBOYS – AMERICA'S TEAM

**The most valuable franchise in all of professional sports, the Dallas Cowboys lead the NFL**

According to *Forbes*, the Dallas Cowboys, a storied National Football League powerhouse, have been the most valuable professional sports franchise in the world for nearly a decade. A 2024 estimate of the team's value topped $10 billion, and this number jumped to $13 billion in 2025.

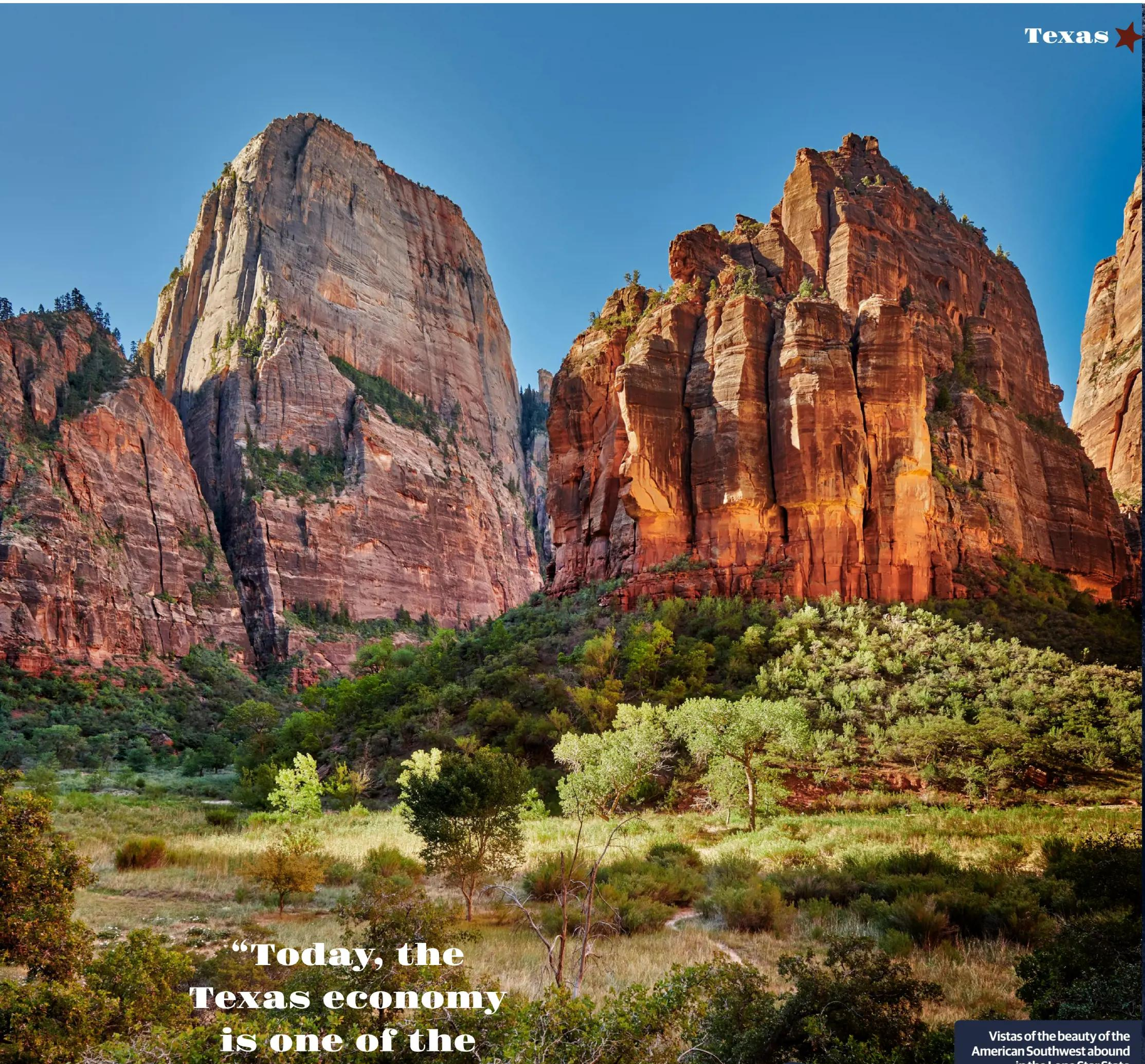
The Cowboys have earned this distinction through performance excellence during the last 65 years. The team officially began league play in 1960, and has amassed a won-loss record of 569-423-6 (by the end of the 2024 season) while reaching the NFL playoffs 36 times. The Cowboys have further claimed five Super Bowl championships.



Through the years, the Cowboys have developed a national – even international – fan base and earned the nickname of 'America's Team'. Legendary coaches Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson led the Cowboys to tremendous success from the 1960s through the 1990s, and stellar players and Hall of Fame members Roger Staubach, Bob Hayes, Bob Lilly, Emmitt Smith, Troy Aikman, and many others have brought sellout crowds to NFL games on Sunday afternoons.

Even during difficult seasons, the Cowboys have displayed enduring popularity, and each season the team's single star logo is worn with pride by many.

Images : Alamy; Getty;



Vistas of the beauty of the American Southwest abound in the Lone Star State

> "Today, the Texas economy is one of the world's largest with a gross domestic product estimated at $2.7 trillion"

The Longhorn is a widely recognized symbol of the state of Texas

### STATE NO. 45

# UTAH

## Utah: Mormons and some of the most magnificent scenery in America

Words Edoardo Albert

### BIO

**Nickname:** Beehive State
**Anthem:** 'Utah... This is the Place', 'Utah, We Love Thee'
**Admitted to the Union:** 4 January 1896
**Capital:** Salt Lake City
**Population:** 3,503,613
**Sports franchises:**
NBA: Utah Jazz
NHL: Utah Mammoth
MLS: Real Salt Lake

★ ★ ★

**Utah is formed by its extraordinary natural geography and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons).** The state has no less than five national parks, second only to California's nine, while Mormons make up about half of the population. The exact proportion is difficult to ascertain as different counting methods produce different results.

The state was admitted to the Union on 4 January 1896. Utah's relatively late accession was because of controversy over the previous Mormon practice of polygamy. Congress only agreed to accept Utah to the Union after the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the LDS) banned polygamy in 1890.

The area around the Great Salt Lake had originally been settled by Brigham Young and Mormon pioneers from 24 July 1847. About 70,000 other Mormons joined Young there in the next few decades. The land they settled was arid and inhospitable but driven by religious zeal and a common purpose, the Mormons set about creating self-sufficient communities in the desert. Communal efforts allowed for the digging of irrigation canals and reservoirs to bring water from the mountains to the drier lowlands, while a culture that emphasised hard work, thrift and self-reliance ensured that little effort was wasted.

But Utah is by no means solely a story of the LDS. The 2002 Winter Olympics, held in Salt Lake City, brought to the world's attention the unsuspected proposition that this largely desert state has some of the best skiing in the world. In fact, Utah's desert climate helps to create the sort of dry powdery snow that skiers love. This further boosted visitor numbers to a state that had already seen its profile rise sharply when its landscape played a starring role in many of the greatest Western movies of the 20th century. John Ford, in particular, loved the dramatic landscape of Monument Valley, which straddles the border between Utah and Arizona, and shot many of his films there.

But, as mentioned earlier on, Utah is also home to five national parks: Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, Capitol Reef and Canyonlands. Every one of these national parks are unique, highlighting the different ways in which the natural geology of Utah has been moulded by the local environment. The spectacular carved formations of Bryce Canyon are the result of frost and erosion, Canyonlands was carved by the Colorado and Green rivers, the Virgin River dug the narrow slot of the Narrows in Zion National Park, Arches has more natural stone arches than anywhere else in the world while Capitol Reef has the 160-kilometre (100-mile) Waterpocket Fold, a natural wrinkle in the earth's surface that exposes the deep geological history of the land.

Utah, a state where the impossibly old and the cutting-edge new meet.★

The Narrows in Zion National Park is one of the most extraordinary hikes in the world

**"The natural geology of Utah has been moulded by the local environment"**

## SALT LAKE TEMPLE

**The spiritual centre of the LDS towers over Salt Lake City, the city the LDS built**

Salt Lake Temple, the largest LDS church in the world and the sixth completed, is closed for renovations at the moment, with its reopening planned for 2026. When the renovations are complete, there will be a brief period when the Temple will be open to visitors. However, once the Temple has been rededicated, it will become off-limits to anyone other than members of the Church of Latter-day Saints. So if you're in Utah when the Temple is open to visitors, make sure to avail yourself of the opportunity. After the rededication, the area around the Temple will remain open for visitors, including the beautiful gardens and the Tabernacle, home to the famous Tabernacle Choir.

The extraordinary natural amphitheatre that is Bryce Canyon National Park

The powder snow that gives Utah some of the best skiing in the world

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.

## 14

# VERMONT

The Green Mountain State, once famed for its dairy farms, remains a lush paradise of rich agricultural lands

Words Callum McKelvie

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Green Mountain State
**Anthem:** 'These Green Mountains'
**Admitted to the Union:** 4 March 1791
**Capital:** Montpelier
**Population:** 648,493
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**The story of Vermont begins in the 17th century, when French and English settlers first made their homes in the lush and rich landscape for which the state would become known.** In 1777, Vermont declared its independence from both the New York Colony and the British crown, establishing itself as a country in its own right – The Vermont Republic. 'Vermont' comes from the French; 'Verts Monts', referring to the state's famous Green Mountains.

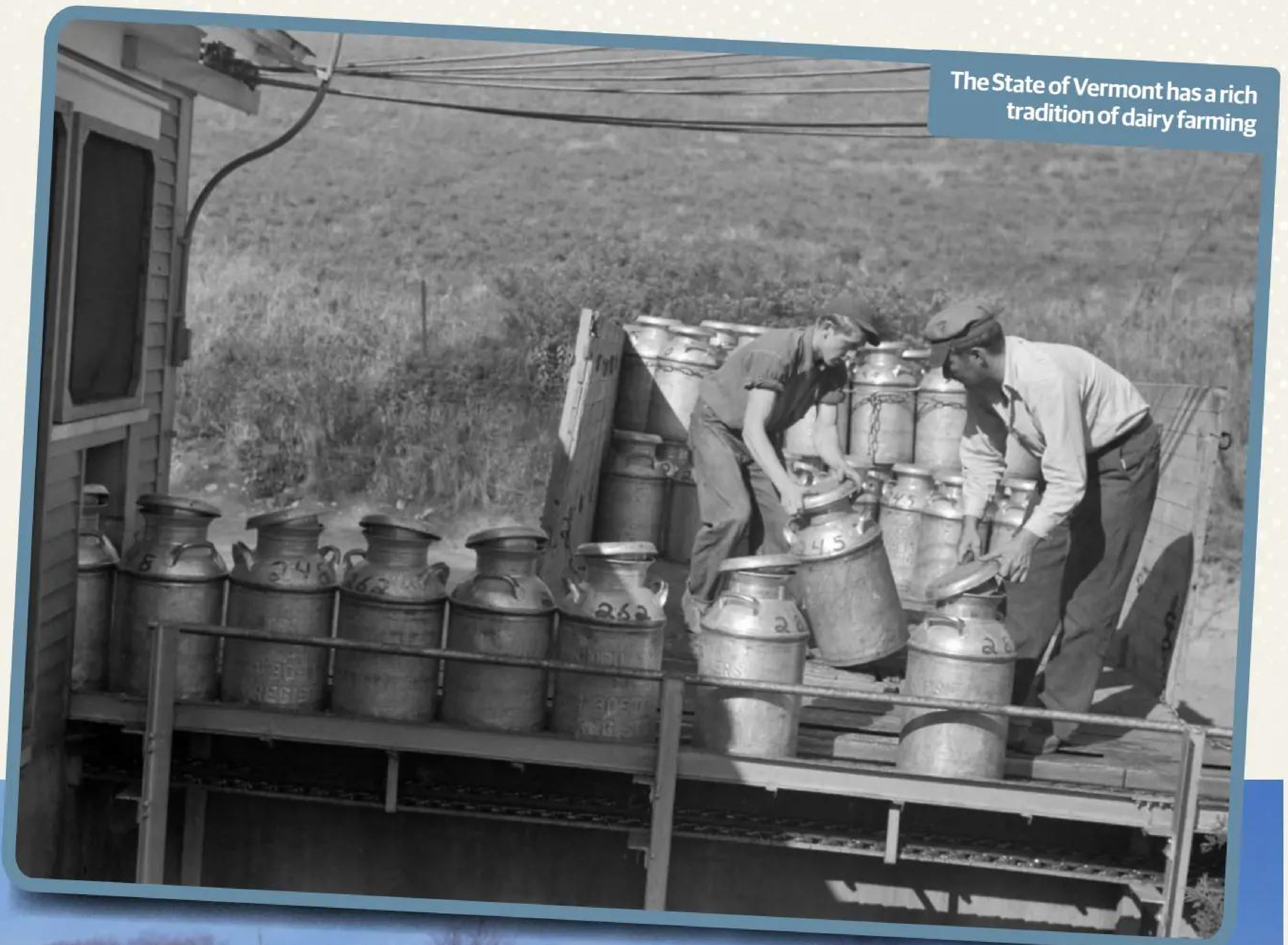
That same year, the Constitution of Vermont was adopted, creating a system of public schools, granting suffrage to all males and banning slavery outright. In 1791, Vermont became the 14th state admitted to the Union. Windsor was the state's home from 1777, but Montpelier was named the new capital in 1805.

But trouble was on the horizon for the fledgling state. 1816 saw the United States experience the 'year without a summer', where freezing temperatures continued well into the spring. As a result, many locals were forced to emigrate to protect their livelihood. The population suffered another blow when on 12 April 1861, the American Civil war began. Over a tenth of the state's entire population, 34,000 troops overall, fought in the conflict.

For much of its history, Vermont's economy has been reliant on agriculture. But during the 1850s farmers were becoming less dependent on traditional sheep farming, instead focusing on cattle. By the 20th century the dairy industry had become key to the state's economy. However, over the subsequent decades the number of dairy farms rapidly decreased and, according to Vermont Public, today there are a little over 400 still in existence. 1927 witnessed the worst flooding in the state's history. Known as 'The Great Flood', 84 people lost their lives and 700 farms were ruined.

As well as its lush fields, Vermont is also renowned for its snowy mountains, many of which are home to popular ski resorts. In 1934, Woodstock saw the introduction of the first ski-tow to the United States, using a model T Ford engine to help heave the skiers uphill. The natural beauty of Vermont is key to its popularity as a tourist destination. In 1970, Governor Deane Chandler Davis established 'Green Up Day', a statewide movement by volunteers to clean up roadside litter.

In the 21st century, Vermont has continued its proud history of progressive legislation. In 2000, it became the first state to legalise civil unions and in 2009 the first to legalise same-sex marriages. History was made again, when in 2018 Vermont became the first state to legalise marijuana for recreational use through legislature. ★

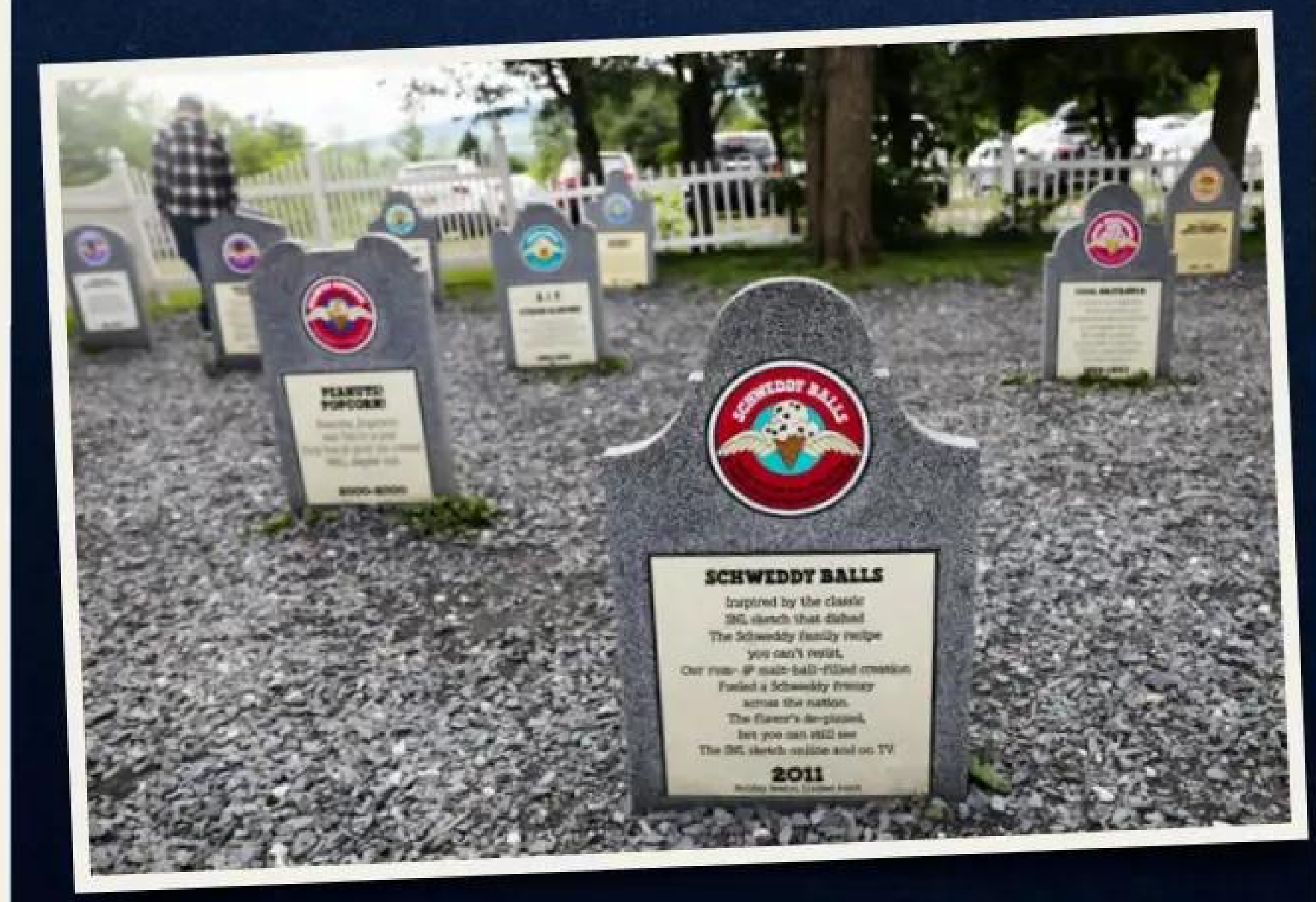

The State of Vermont has a rich tradition of dairy farming

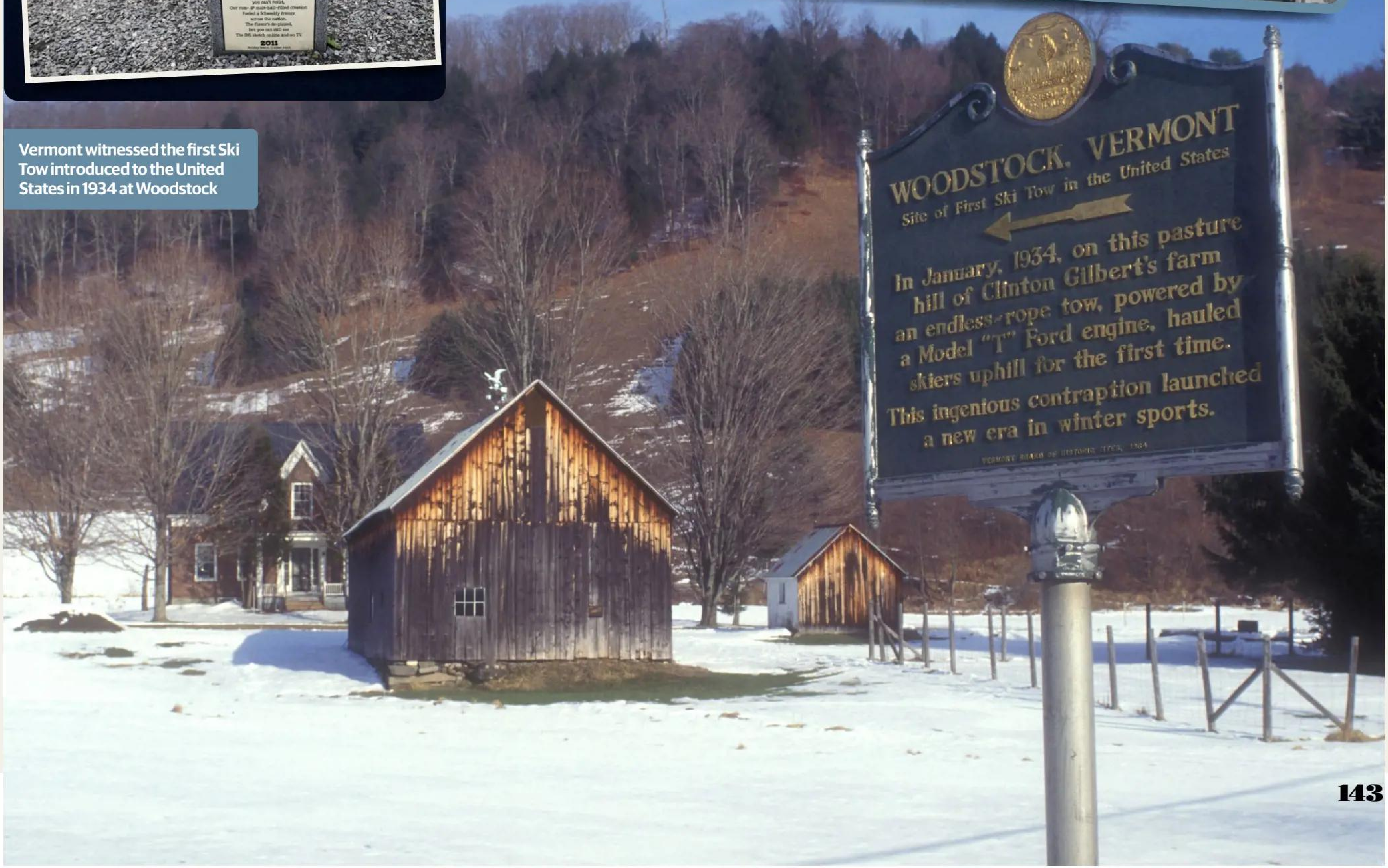
BEN & JERRY'S HO

## GELATO GRAVEYARD

**Ben & Jerry's have a unique way of 'memoralising' their discontinued products...**

Founded in Vermont in 1978, Ben and Jerry's is one of the world's most popular makers of ice cream. Known for their many unique flavors, such as cookie dough, cherry garcia and phish food (containing marshmallows, caramel and chocolate 'fish'), some 300 flavours have been discontinued during their 57 years of operation. Beginning in 1997, the company opened a 'flavour graveyard' located at their Waterbury factory. Inside, the company has erected tombstones for over 35 of its most popular flavours from the past, containing the flavours' name, 'birth' and 'death' date. They estimated that over 250,000 'mourners' visit the site every year to pay their respects.


SCHWEDDY BALLS
2011


WOODSTOCK, VERMONT
Site of First Ski Tow in the United States
In January, 1934, on this pasture hill of Clinton Gilbert's farm an endless-rope tow, powered by a Model "T" Ford engine, hauled skiers uphill for the first time. This ingenious contraption launched a new era in winter sports.

Vermont witnessed the first Ski Tow introduced to the United States in 1934 at Woodstock

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy; Wiki Commons / Public Domain

STATE NO. 10

# VIRGINIA

Virginia has played a pivotal role in the history of the United States

Words Marc DeSantis

**Founded in 1607 with the planting of the first successful English colony of Jamestown, the Commonwealth of Virginia was the tenth state to ratify the United States Constitution, doing so in 1788.** Virginia played an outsized role in the new nation's early years. Four of its first five presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe, hailed from there. It contained about 20 percent of the country's population, and was responsible for some one-third of its commercial output. The state's power also made itself felt in the establishment on its border of the United States's purpose-built new capital, Washington, D.C., along the Potomac River.

The state's early economy was strongly agricultural. Tobacco growing was of immense importance, often produced on slave-worked plantations. The centrality of the tobacco economy would make slave-owning a paramount concern for Virginia during the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Future president James Madison reported that slavery was the issue that divided the states more than any other, including size.

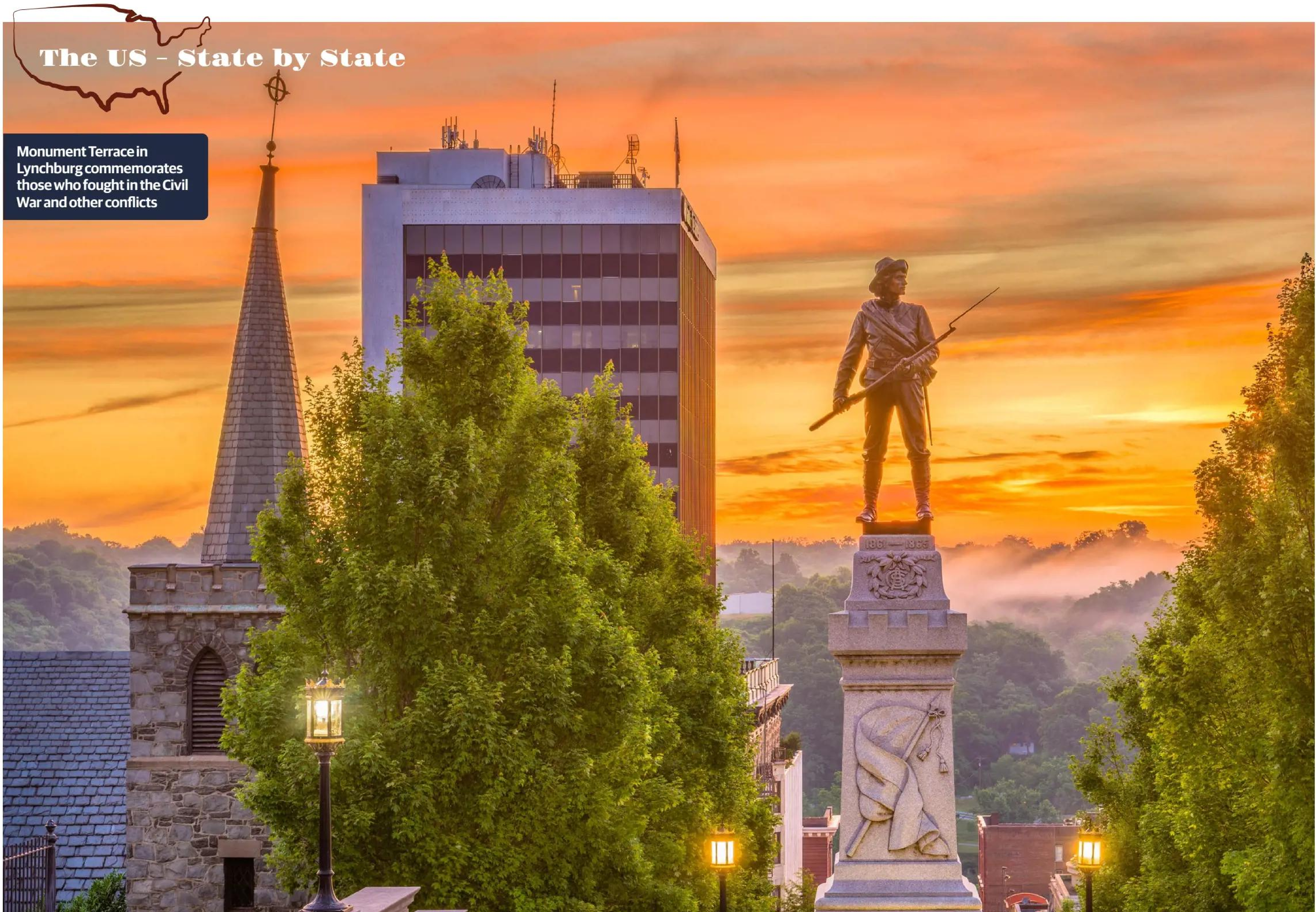
It came down to a matter of how many slaves those states contained. The more slaves there were in such states, the more ardently they insisted that the federal government must stay out of the matter. Virginia itself had the highest population of slaves at this time. It was firmly against the national government doing anything to

## BIO

**Nickname:** Mother of Presidents, Old Dominion
**Anthem:** 'Our Great Virginia'
**Admitted to the Union:** 25 June 1788
**Capital:** Richmond
**Population:** 8,811,195
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**Main** An aerial view of the skyline in Richmond, Virginia

Images on spread: Getty; Adobe Stock



Monument Terrace in Lynchburg commemorates those who fought in the Civil War and other conflicts

The advanced F-35 Lightning II fighter is produced by Lockheed Martin

> “The division between the states would prove unbridgeable”

free them. The division between the states would prove unbridgeable on the issue, and had to be left unsettled. It would remain this way until the end of the Civil War roughly 80 years later.

## Civil War

No compromise could be had between the Northern and Southern states over the extremely divisive issue of slavery. Most slave-holding states decided to secede from the United States and formed the Confederate States of America. Virginia was among them and its capital of Richmond became the Confederate capital too.

Virginia hosted more battles during the Civil War that any other state. As a result, the state and its people suffered terribly. The final act of the war took place at Appomattox Court House, where General Robert E. Lee, himself a Virginian, made his formal surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant on 9 April 1865.

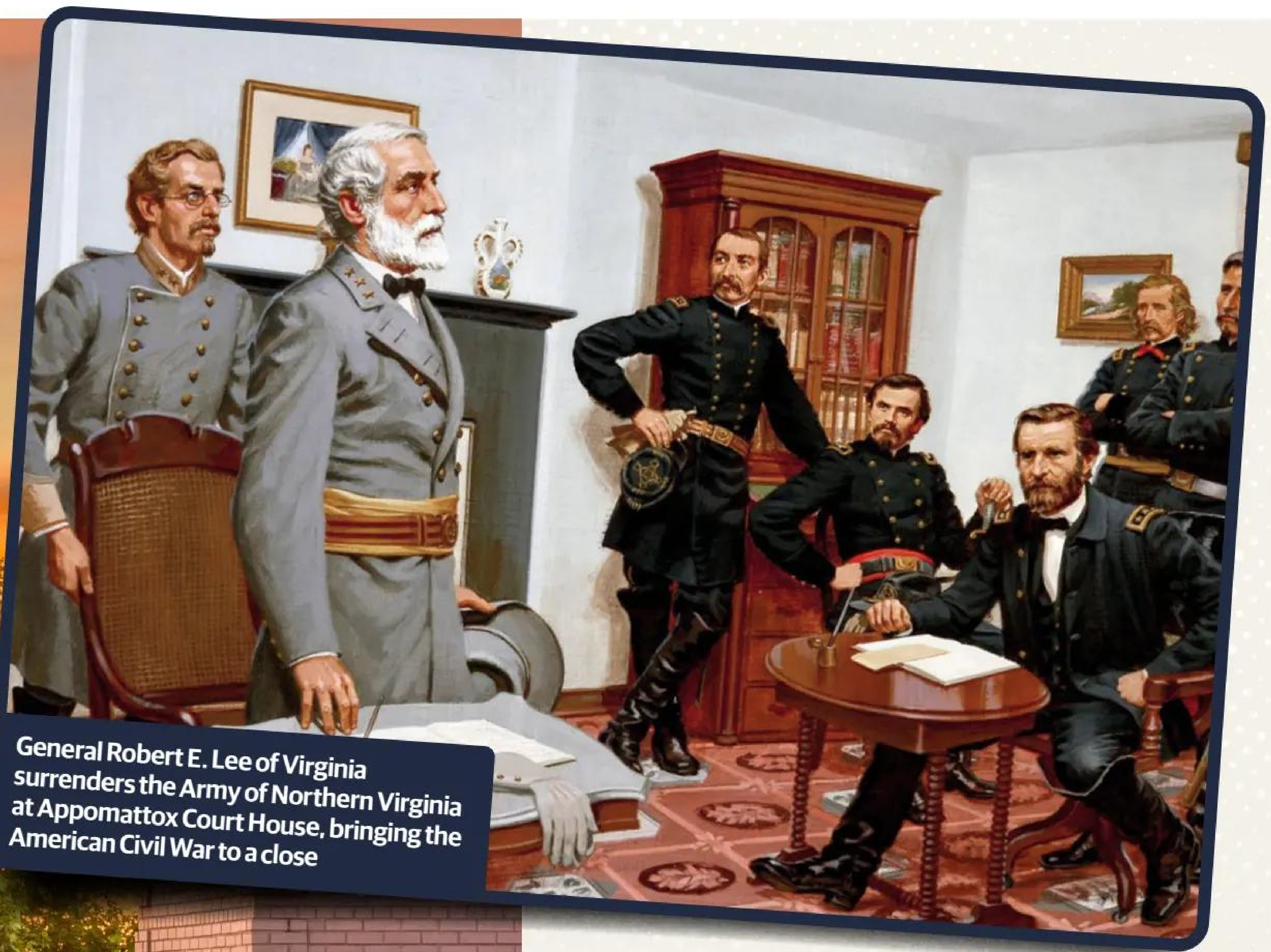
Virginia was severely distressed in the decades after the Civil War. Reconstruction, the US government’s policy of dealing with the awful legacy of slavery in the Southern states, caused great resentment among numerous Virginians, as well as many other Southerners.

Among the worst to suffer in these times was the newly-emancipated Black population, which nonetheless endured heavy discrimination. Sharecropping, a practice in which Black tenant-farmers were subjected to conditions very similar to slavery, was commonplace. The races were also legally separated.

## Virginia and Industry

Today, services total some two-thirds of Virginia’s economic output. However, Virginia has long been a centre for industry as well. In the 19th century,

Images : Alamy; Getty; Wiki



General Robert E. Lee of Virginia surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, bringing the American Civil War to a close

businessman Cyrus McCormick invented the mechanical reaper, which made harvesting wheat much less labour-intensive. He also led the way in developing a credit system that made it possible for a farmer to pay the price of this machine in instalments. McCormick's reaper was also noteworthy because this invention made the speedy settlement of the Midwestern plains to the west of Virginia by so many Americans possible.

Virginia also developed a strong shipbuilding tradition, and this was clearly seen in the extraordinary productivity of its famed Newport News shipyard. Virginia is, in addition, the site of the headquarters of many cutting edge companies that focus on defence. Among these companies is RTX, which is the producer of the Patriot missile system. The US military is a leading source of employment in the state.

The CIA's headquarters, the George Bush Center for Intelligence, stands in Langley, Virginia

The United States Navy's Naval Station Norfolk, in Norfolk, Virginia, is the world's biggest naval base

## ARLINGTON: RESTING PLACE FOR HEROES

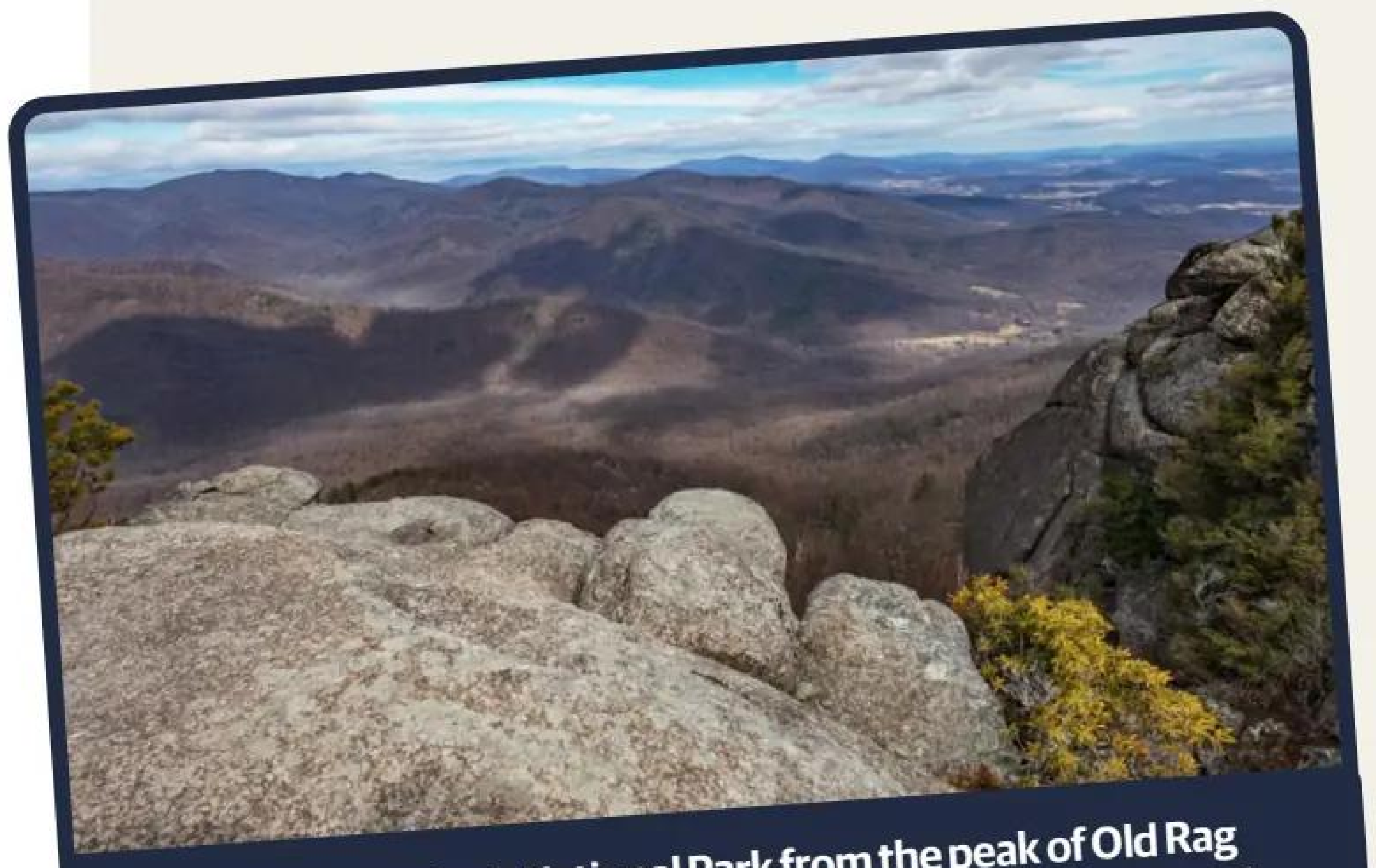
**Arlington National Cemetery is the foremost burial ground for those who fought for their nation**

Arlington National Cemetery, located in Arlington County, near Washington D.C., is the most famous cemetery in the United States. Some 400,000 persons have been laid to rest on its hallowed grounds. They come from all branches of service, and include soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, as well as later conflicts.

Women have been interred with their husbands here, but it should not be supposed that they may do so only as a matter of marriage. In modern times, women who themselves served in the military have also found their places at Arlington.

Perhaps the most iconic place at Arlington is the Tomb of the Unknowns. Here was first buried an American soldier who had died in World War I whose remains could not be identified. He was later joined by two other unidentified soldiers, one from World War II, and the other from the Korean War.

The U.S. Army's 'Old Guard' escorts a U.S. serviceman to his final resting place at Arlington.



A view of Shenandoah National Park from the peak of Old Rag Mountain. Measuring 169 km (105 miles) long, this narrow park lines the crest of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains

## Defending the Nation

Virginia played a key role in America's defence during the World Wars, and long afterward. Its Newport News Shipbuilding Company constructed one of America's earliest dreadnoughts, USS *Texas*. This warship, launched in 1912, had the distinction of being the oldest surviving dreadnought afloat from the World War I era.

Newport News was also the source of huge numbers of other important warships for the US Navy. This included the battleship USS *Indiana*, which served during the World War II. Also built were numerous aircraft carriers such as the USS *Enterprise*, the most renowned American carrier of World War II. Newport News continued this tradition of excellence into the Cold War, by building the world's first nuclear-powered carrier. Today, its workers carefully assemble the latest additions to the fleet, the nuclear-powered Gerald R. Ford-class carriers.

The nerve centre of America's military might is the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, a massive office building with a footprint of 6.24 million square feet. From within this edifice the nation's globally-deployed armed forces are overseen by thousands of people, both military and civilian. On 11 September 2011, a hijacked airliner crashed into the Pentagon. Almost two hundred people perished in the attack.

The Pentagon, located in Arlington, is the nerve centre of America's defence

## VIRGINIA – 'MOTHER OF PRESIDENTS'

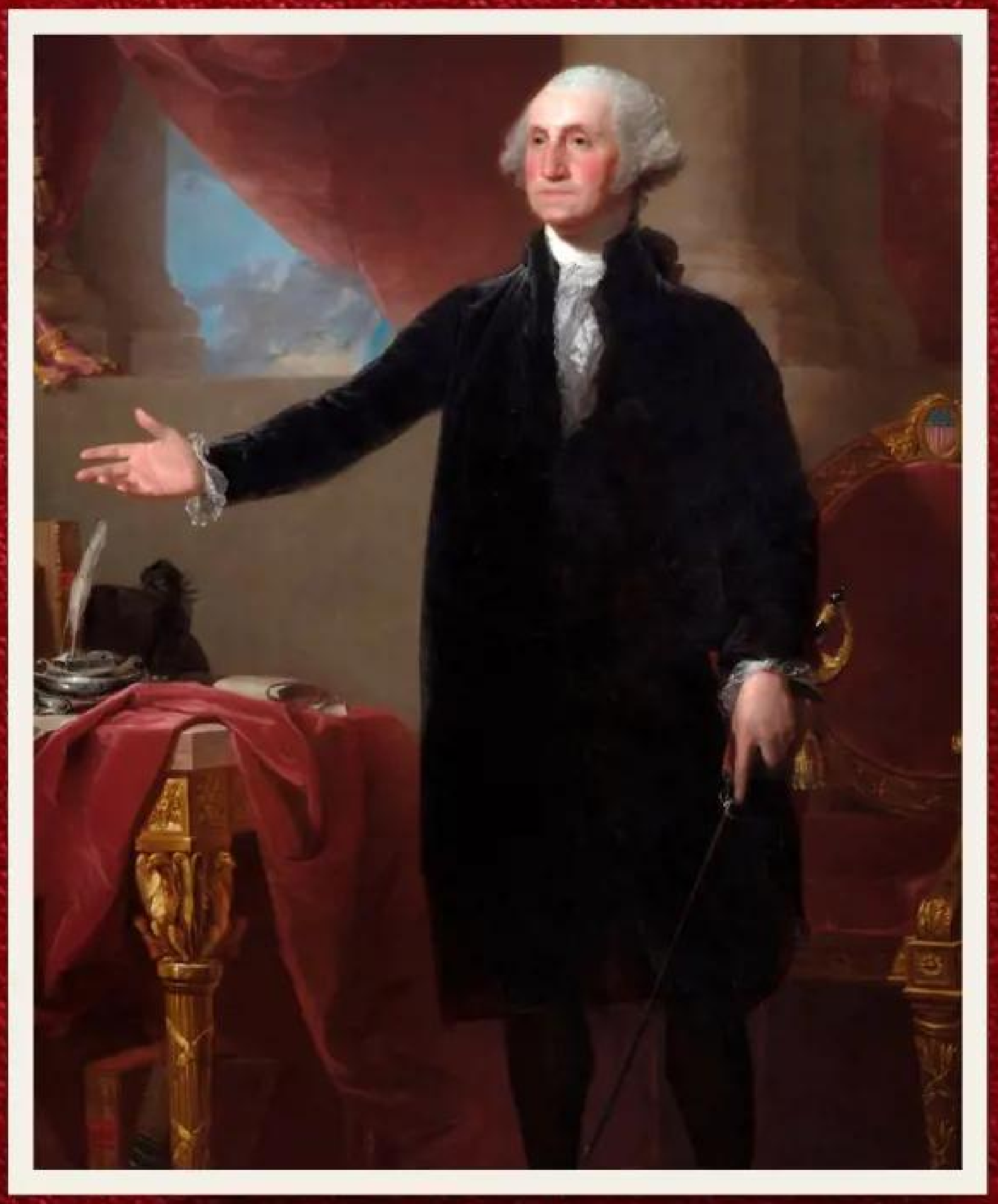
**The state of Virginia boasts more presidents born on its soil than any other in the Union**

Eight presidents have been born in Virginia, more than any other state. George Washington, the nation's first, needs no introduction. Crucially, in 1794 he firmly cemented the power of the new federal government by personally quashing a rebellion that had erupted in western Pennsylvania over a tax on distilled alcohol.

America's third president, Thomas Jefferson, was a Virginia planter and slaveholder, as was Washington. He was one of the leading Founding Fathers and the main author of the Declaration of Independence. With the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803, he enormously increased the size of the US.

The presidency of the fourth president, James Madison, saw friction between Great Britain and the United States flare into full scale war in 1812. The fifth president, James Monroe, saw the emergence of the eponymous Monroe Doctrine, which refused to countenance any European colonial activity in the Western Hemisphere.

Other presidents born in Virginia include William Henry Harrison (9th); John Tyler (10th); Zachary Taylor (12th); and Woodrow Wilson (28th).



In Langley, Virginia, sits a very different, but immensely important part of the United States's national defence. Established in 1947, during the presidency of Harry S. Truman, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is America's best-known civilian intelligence agency. The need for an intelligence service had become pressing. The wartime cooperation between the West and the Soviet Union that had accomplished the defeat of Nazi Germany was rapidly turning into what would become known as the Cold War.

## Virginia in the 21st Century

The future for 21st-century Virginia is bright. Racial difficulties have not been overcome, but progress, though a long time coming, is steadily being made. State desegregation was court-ordered in the 1950's. In 1990, in what would have astonished many in years past, L. Douglas Wilder, the grandson of a slave, became the first Black governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in fact, the first Black governor of any American state.

Virginia's proximity to Washington, D.C., the locus of so much national power, means that the state benefits greatly from governmental largesse. Many people who work for the federal government, either in Washington D.C. itself or in its many outlying agencies located in Virginia, make their homes in the state, thereby enriching its economy.

Virginia is also well-known for its excellent institutions of higher learning. The oldest in Virginia, and second oldest in the United States, for that matter, is the College of William and Mary. This state institution was established in 1693, in colonial times, before Virginia had even become a state. Another famed state school is the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, founded in 1819. This elite university was the brainchild of Thomas Jefferson himself. ★

Mount Vernon, first US President George Washington's family estate, is located in Fairfax County, Virginia

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.
42

# WASHINGTON

Washington is the state where primeval forest meets the high-tech future

Words Edoardo Albert

## BIO

**Nickname:** The Evergreen State
**Anthem:** 'Washington, My Home'
**Admitted to the Union:** 11 November 1889
**Capital:** Olympia
**Population:** 7,958,180
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Seattle Seahawks
MLB: Seattle Mariners
NHL: Seattle Kraken
MLS: Seattle Sounders FC

**Before Washington joined the Union in 1889, Congress made it a Territory in 1853.** It was originally going to be called 'Columbia' after its major river but Congress decided that calling the territory Columbia risked confusion with the District of Columbia, the home of the federal government. So Congress decided to call the territory 'Washington' instead, because that was far less confusing.

As the state nickname says, Washington is green: the green of its primeval forests, the largest temperate rainforests in the lower 48. Vast forests of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, hemlock and western red cedar march over the Cascade Mountains down to Puget Sound. Ancient trees, covered in straggly beards of moss and lichen, make an ancient landscape from which emerge more sightings of Bigfoot (or Sasquatch to the Native Americans who first named him) than any other state in America.

But this land of myth and legend runs alongside another Washington, a Washington of technology and innovation. With its wealth of timber and natural resources, Washington's first major industries were logging, fishing, agriculture (in the drier interior of the state) and mining. Tacoma grew as a site for smelting the products of gold, silver, copper and lead mines, while Seattle became the key port trading with Alaska and up and down the west coast. But the most important business for the future of the state started in 1916 when William

Moss-covered trees at the Hoh Rain Forest in Olympic National Park, Washington

## THE SPACE NEEDLE

**As featured in Sleepless in Seattle and many other movies, the Space Needle is the city's own Eiffel Tower**

Rising 184 m (605 ft) above the Lower Queen Anne neighbourhood of Seattle, the Space Needle was built for the 1962 World's Fair that took place in the city. It has gone on to become as synonymous with Seattle as the Eiffel Tower is with Paris. The Space Needle is an observation tower, with a lift taking more than a million visitors a year up to the observation deck, with its views over downtown Seattle, the Puget Sound, Mount Rainier, and the Cascades and Olympic mountains. Built at the start of the Space Age, the architecture of the tower deliberately invokes stories of flying saucers and space-age towers.

Boeing founded his airplane manufacturing business in Seattle.

In response to the widespread unemployment of the Great Depression, federal initiatives led to the construction of dams on the rivers in the region, the Columbia River in particular. This abundant source of hydroelectric power was one of the reasons that Washington State was marked out for investment during the Second World War. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt and his advisors contracted production of B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-29 Superfortresses to Boeing. In 1944, Boeing's Seattle factory was producing 500 B-17s every month.

Washington was also home to the super-secret Hanford Site, where the plutonium that went into the Fat Man atomic bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki was processed.

From the 1980s, Washington diversified into high-tech industries. Microsoft has its headquarters in Redmond while Amazon is based in Seattle. But it was not all just tech nerds; in the 1990s, Seattle led the reaction against the excesses of hair metal music, which had dominated MTV for the previous few years, with the grunge scene producing the meteoric career of Kurt Cobain and Nirvana, and the more enduring Pearl Jam.

Production line of B-17 planes for the US Army Air Corps in 1943

Despite urban myths of people arriving in Washington State and looking for the White House, the state is more than ever a place to visit in its own right – whether it is to experience its diverse natural landscapes or exciting cities. ★

> **"Seattle became the key port trading with Alaska and up and down the west coast"**

The Amazon Spheres, part of the Amazon headquarters campus in Seattle

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.

# 35

# WEST VIRGINIA

## With its beautiful scenery and industrial heritage, this state represents the heart of America

Words Steve Wright

### BIO

**Nickname:** The Mountain State
**Anthem:** 'The West Virginia Hills', 'This Is My West Virginia', 'West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home', 'Take Me Home, Country Roads'
**Admitted to the Union:** 20 June 1863
**Capital:** Charleston
**Population:** 1,769,979
**Sport Franchises:** N/A

**Located entirely in the mountainous Appalachian region, and famed for its breathtaking natural history and rolling hills that have inspired many an anthem, West Virginia has often found itself a focal point for competing parties.**

This started in the American Civil War. Having already seceded from Virginia, the state spent much of the war under Union occupation. On the war's end, voting rights were stripped from returning Confederates, as it was from anyone who had aided the Confederacy in any way. It was a controversial measure, since the state supplied roughly the same number of Confederates and Unions troops. Nevertheless, the state largely remained under Democrat control.

During the post-Civil War Reconstruction period, West Virginia benefitted from its abundance of natural mineral resources. Having historically been an efficient miner of salt, this was restored, and it became a major producer. Similarly, its extensive reserves of bituminous coal powered much of the Industrial Revolution. This led to huge improvements in the state's infrastructure, with the creation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway in 1869, the Virginian Railway in 1907, and the expansion of older lines such as the Western Maryland Railway. These would fuel the transportation of coal, further increasing its importance to the nation.

In turn, this industrialisation attracted many European and African American immigrants to the state. However, with the poor wages and

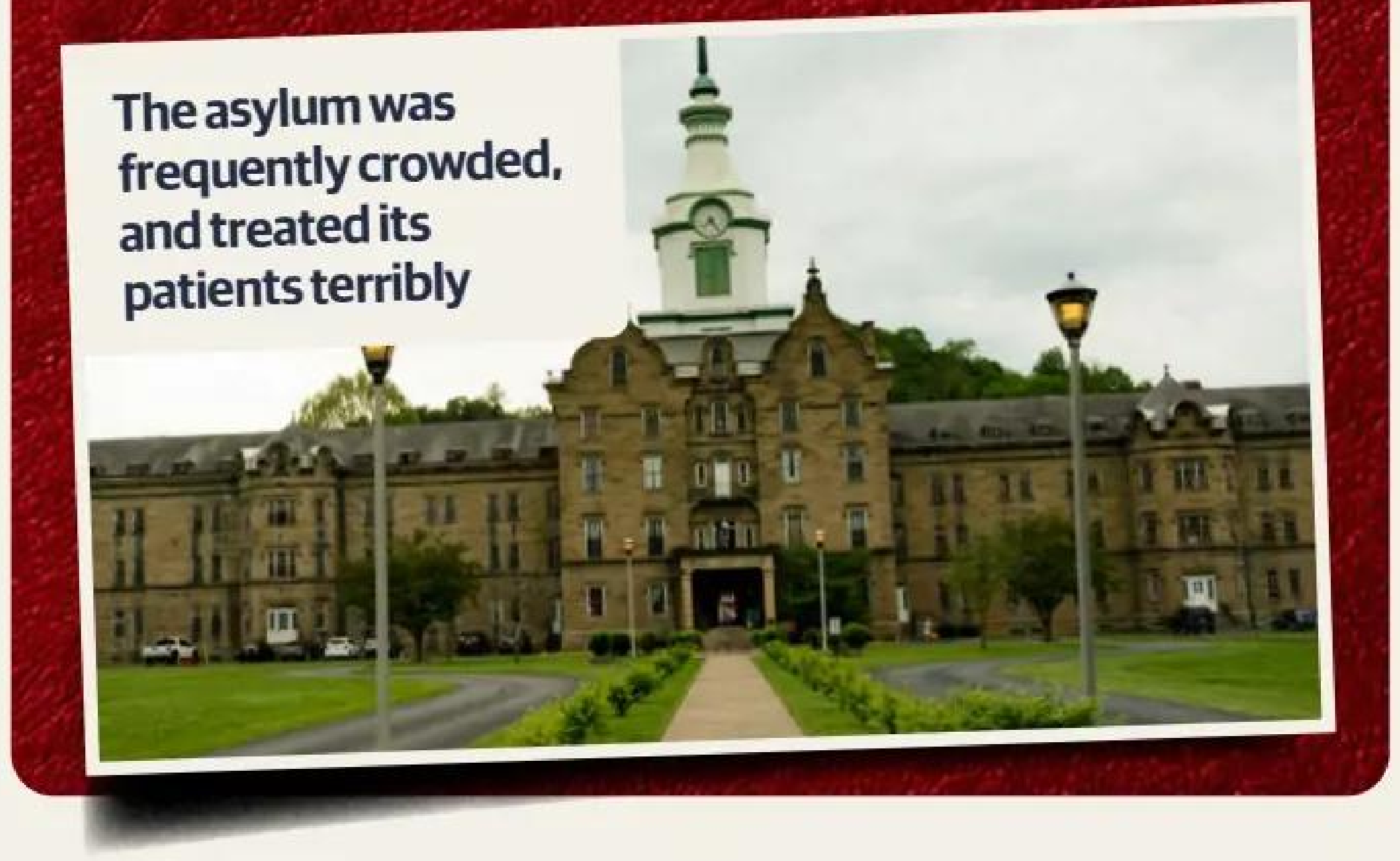
# TRANS-ALLEGHENY LUNATIC ASYLUM

**It may be closed, but its dark reputation lives on**

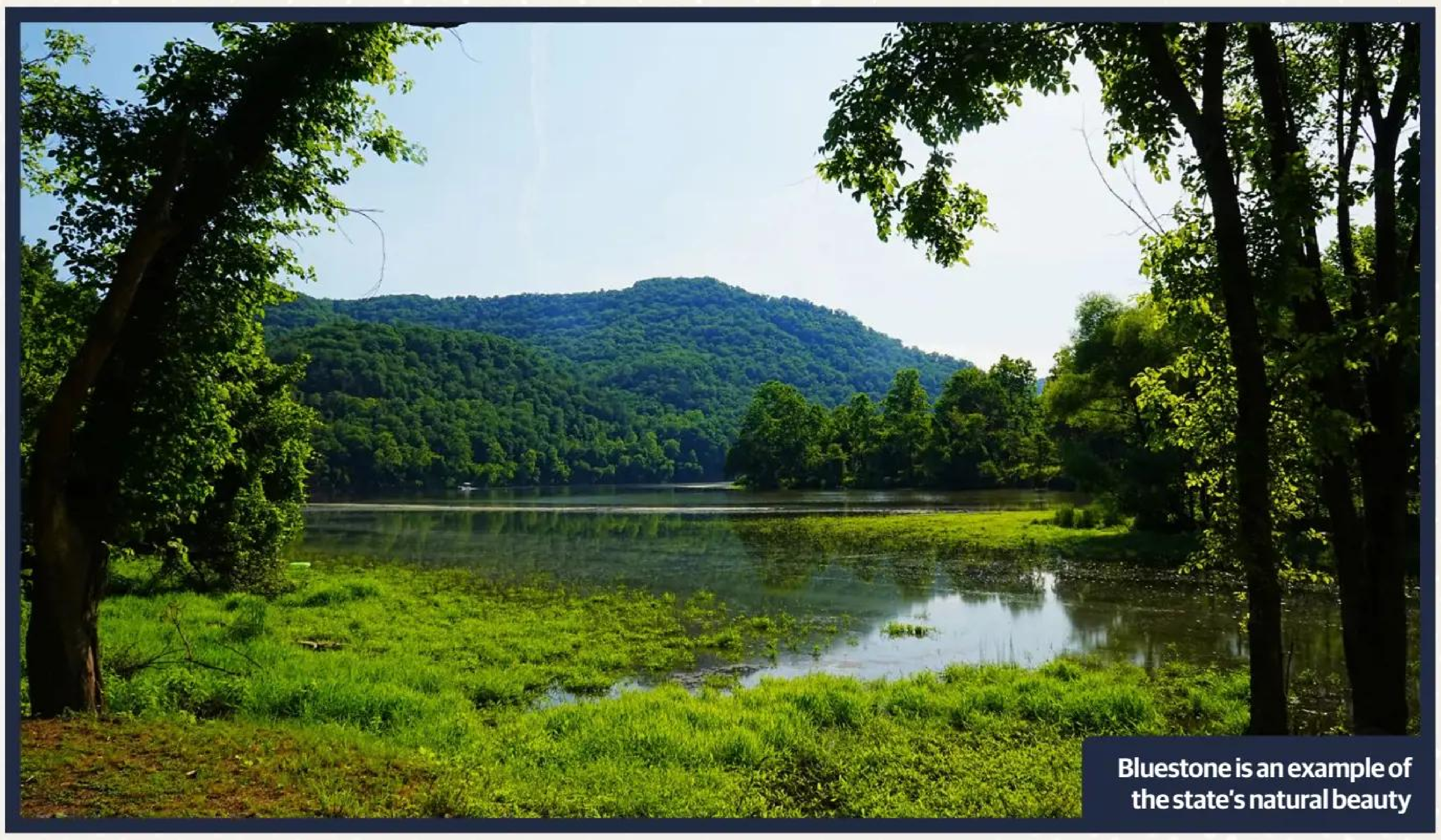
Built between 1858 and 1871, the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum was constructed. Despite its name, patients were admitted for reasons that don't really seem to do it justice; namely laziness, asthma, and assorted problems at home.

Before long, overcrowding became a problem. Originally designed for 250 people, it quickly rose beyond this number, reaching as high as 2,400-2,600 in the 1950s. There were many reports of squalid conditions experienced by the inhabitants, and the death rate was astronomical – estimated to be as high as five figures.

It finally closed in 1994, in part due to a lawsuit from relatives of the patients.



The asylum was frequently crowded, and treated its patients terribly



Bluestone is an example of the state's natural beauty

dangerous conditions, there were often disputes, with unionisation being frequently mooted. Strikes were frequent between 1912 and 1921, with state and federal troops often being called in to mitigate.

There were further booms during World War II as manufacturing increased to assist the war effort, with improvements also seen in the 1960s thanks to federal aid and the rise of energy prices during the 1970s. However, their subsequent fall during the 1980s led to a worsening of fortunes.

Today, while still iconic for its awe-inspiring scenery that includes a number of sites of note, including the Bluestone National Scenic River and the George Washington National Forest, its fortunes on the economic front have been less favourable. Among other statistics, West Virginia's poverty rate was 16.7 percent in 2023 – the fourth highest in the nation at the time.

In 2000, the election of George W Bush as President saw the state swing from blue to red and, having been Democrat-held for the majority of its history, West Virginia became Republican. It has remained this way ever since, becoming firmly entrenched as a 'Red State'. ★

Charleston is the state's capital

West Virginia has frequently been immortalised for its rolling hills

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO. 30

# WISCONSIN

## A state famed for its cheese and beer – what better accolade could there be?

**Words Steve Wright**

WISCONSIN
1848

### BIO

**Nickname:**
The Badger State
**Anthem:** 'On, Wisconsin'
**Admitted to the Union:**
29 May 1848
**Capital:** Madison
**Population:** 5,960,975
**Sports franchises:**
NFL: Green Bay Packers
NBA: Milwaukee Bucks
MLB: Milwaukee Brewers

**Part of both the Upper Midwest and the Great Lakes region (it has more than 15,000 of them), Wisconsin may not have the biggest cities (only three, Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay, number over 100,000 in population), it more than makes up for it with its rich history.**

Since its admission into the union in 1848, Wisconsin has gained renown in a number of areas, such as its focus on dairy production (particularly cheese), high-achieving education system, and party-loving inhabitants.

A pro-abolitionist state, Wisconsin sided with the union during the American Civil War, contributing a number of regiments towards the war effort that saw it come out on the winning side.

Post-war, the economy became centred around agriculture, although the intensive nature of this led to a switch to dairy farming. This was where the state made its name, becoming known as 'America's Dairyland'. Other industries to develop during this time included lumber and paper milling, brewing and food processing, and tool making, based around the state's most populous city, Milwaukee.

Throughout the 20th century, Wisconsin found itself at the centre of many of the country's – and the world's – most era-defining moments. During World War I, many of its representatives didn't want to get involved in a European war, leading to it being called by some 'the traitor state'. Before World War II, it would also see the establishment of the Wisconsin Progressive Party, a third party

Wisconsin is famed for its high concentration of dairy farming

that played a pivotal role in Wisconsin politics. This involvement in national movements would carry on for the rest of the century, with Wisconsin senator Joseph McCarthy gaining renown and notoriety for his anti-Communist witch hunts, as well as the anti-war protests of the 1950s that led to the death of a university researcher.

Today, Wisconsin remains noted for its production of cheese, as well as other foods: it's one of the country's biggest supplies of both ginseng and cranberries. It's also proud of its history of brewing – the Miller Brewing Company is based in the state.

Moreover, its sports teams have gained worldwide renown. The Green Bay Packers hold the record for the most wins in NFL history, and are the third-oldest franchise in the league, having been established in 1919. In basketball, the Milwaukee Bucks have been similarly influential, playing host to such legends as Kareem Abdul-Jabar, and the Milwaukee Beers represent the state in Major League Baseball. ★

## HARLEY-DAVIDSON MUSEUM

**One for the motorheads: this tribute to the iconic American bike is one to not be missed**

There are few bigger names in motorcycling than Harley-Davidson, and the city of Milwaukee plays host to a museum that plays host to a repository of artefacts and knowledge about the site's history and influence on American culture.

Built in 2008, the museum plays host to all manner of exhibits, galleries and attractions, with highlights including the 'King Kong', a 13-foot long motorbike custom-made by Felix Predko, and exact replicas of the bikes ridden by Henry Fonda and Dennis Hopper in the 1969 film, *Easy Rider*. It remains a popular tourist attraction, with 300,000-350,000 visitors annually.

The museum is a mecca for fans of all things motorcycle

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

The Green Bay Packers are one of the country's most successful NFL sides

Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

STATE NO.

44

# WYOMING

## The land where the Old West meets modern-day America

Words Edoardo Albert

### BIO

**Nickname:** Equality State, Cowboy State
**Anthem:** 'Wyoming'
**Admitted to the Union:** 10 July 1890
**Capital:** Cheyenne
**Population:** 587,618
**Sports franchises:** N/A

**Wyoming is cowboy country. Its western flank is defined by the Rocky Mountains rising up out of the Great Plains.** Those Great Plains make up the rest of Wyoming. Stretching east from the mountains, these plains were once the home of vast herds of buffalo and the Native American tribes that followed them as they wondered across the grass plains.

Conflict with Native Americans defined Wyoming for much of the 19th century. The Oregon Trail passed through the territory and to protect the wagon trains, the US Army established forts along the way, including Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger and Fort Phil Kearny. Fort Phil Kearny was built to protect miners on the Bozeman Trail but it paid no regard to the Native Americans whose land it passed through. Under the leadership of Red Cloud, an alliance of Lakota, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes started to attack the outposts and patrols of the US Cavalry. Red Cloud's War climaxed at the Fetterman Fight when Crazy Horse decoyed 81 US cavalrymen into an ambush. Captain William Fetterman and all his men were killed. Red Cloud emerged victorious, the US Army units withdrew, the Bozeman trail was closed and Red Cloud burned Fort Phil Kearny.

Wyoming's twin nicknames highlight its contribution to the Union. On 10 December 1869, when Wyoming was still a Territory, its Governor, John Allen Campbell, decreed that women should vote and when Wyoming became a state on 10 July 1890, that right was continued. Wyoming was the first state of the Union to grant female suffrage. Despite its cowboy image, the state continued to promote women into positions of power. On 5 January 1925, Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman to take office as the Governor of a US state.

The completion of the Union Pacific Railroad brought settlers into Wyoming. The clash between free-roaming ranchers and farmers looking to make a living on the thin soil resulted in one of the deadliest and brutal range wars in American history, the Johnson County War.

William Cody, the legendary Buffalo Bill, founded a town he named for himself in northwestern Wyoming to take advantage of its location near Yellowstone National Park. Having gone from Pony Express rider and Indian scout to touring Wild West impresario, Buffalo Bill understood better than anyone else how to turn the days of his youth into the adventure stories for the new America.

Today, Wyoming remains a place of wide, open spaces and few people. With six people in each square mile, it is the least densely populated of the lower 48 states: only Alaska has a lower population density. While Buffalo Bill's Old West is gone, Wyoming is where it lingered longest. ★

Red Cloud was the most successful of all the Native American leaders, forcing the US Army to withdraw from his territory

> **"Wyoming was the first state of the Union to grant female suffrage"**

## THE WORLD'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK

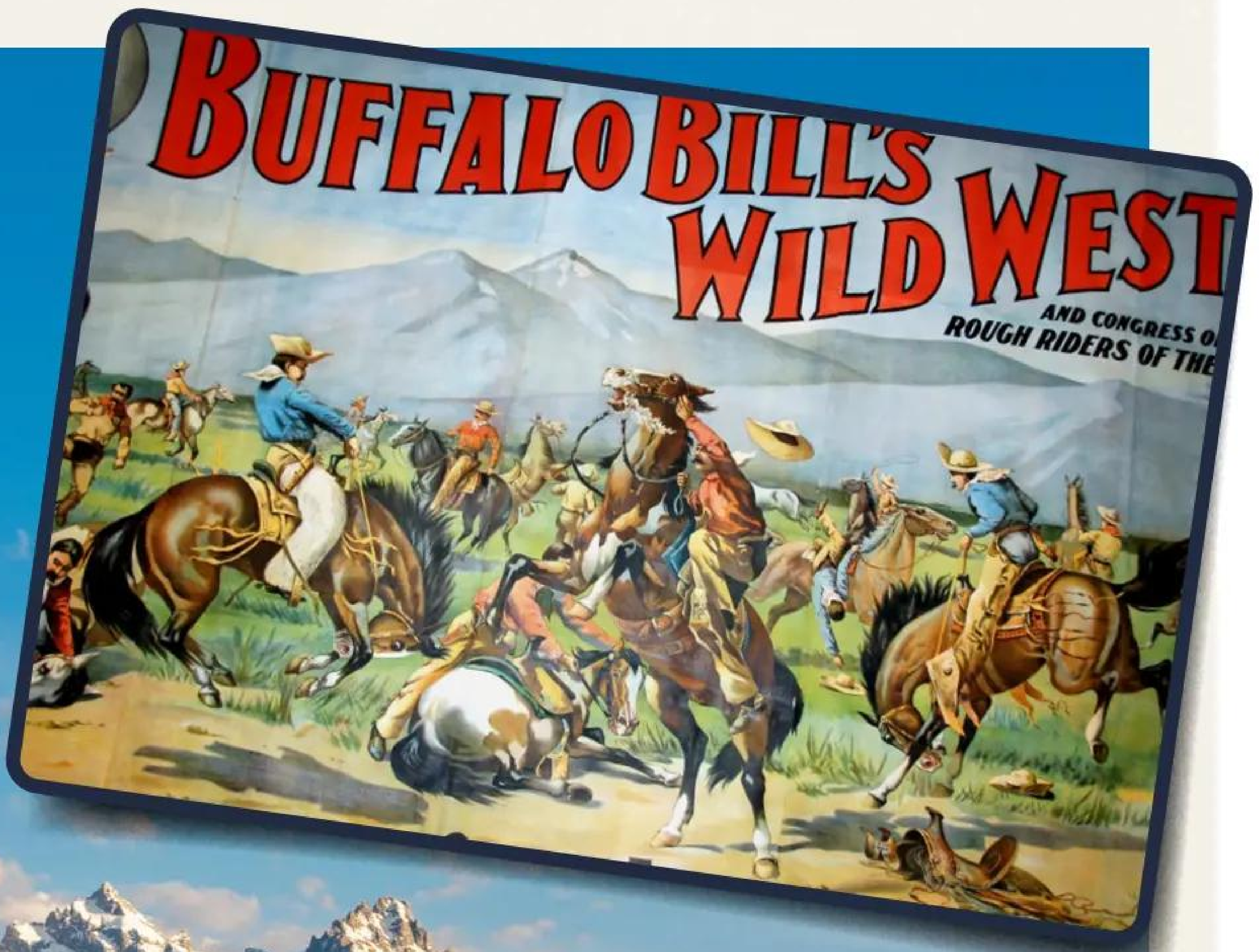
**Yellowstone is so extraordinary that no one believed the first reports about what was there**

In 1807, John Colter, who was a member of the Lewis and Clarke expedition, came back with reports of bubbling earth and columns of steam and sulphurous smells, but his testimony was dismissed. Trapper and mountain man Jim Bridger returned with similar reports 50 years later but they were again received with incredulity. It was only when official expeditions ventured into the area that people realised that Colter and Bridger were telling the truth.

The area was so extraordinary that, on 1 March 1872, the US Congress designated it a park, to be preserved for the nation in perpetuity. Thus Yellowstone became the first national park in America and, depending upon definition, in the world too.

The thermal features in Yellowstone are so unusual it's not surprising that they provoked disbelief

While not as famous as Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park is almost as spectacular and even emptier



Images on spread: Getty; Alamy

# US TERRITORIES

In addition to the 50 states are the American Territories, overseen by the federal government but each one unique in its own history and distinctive in culture

Words Bee Ginger

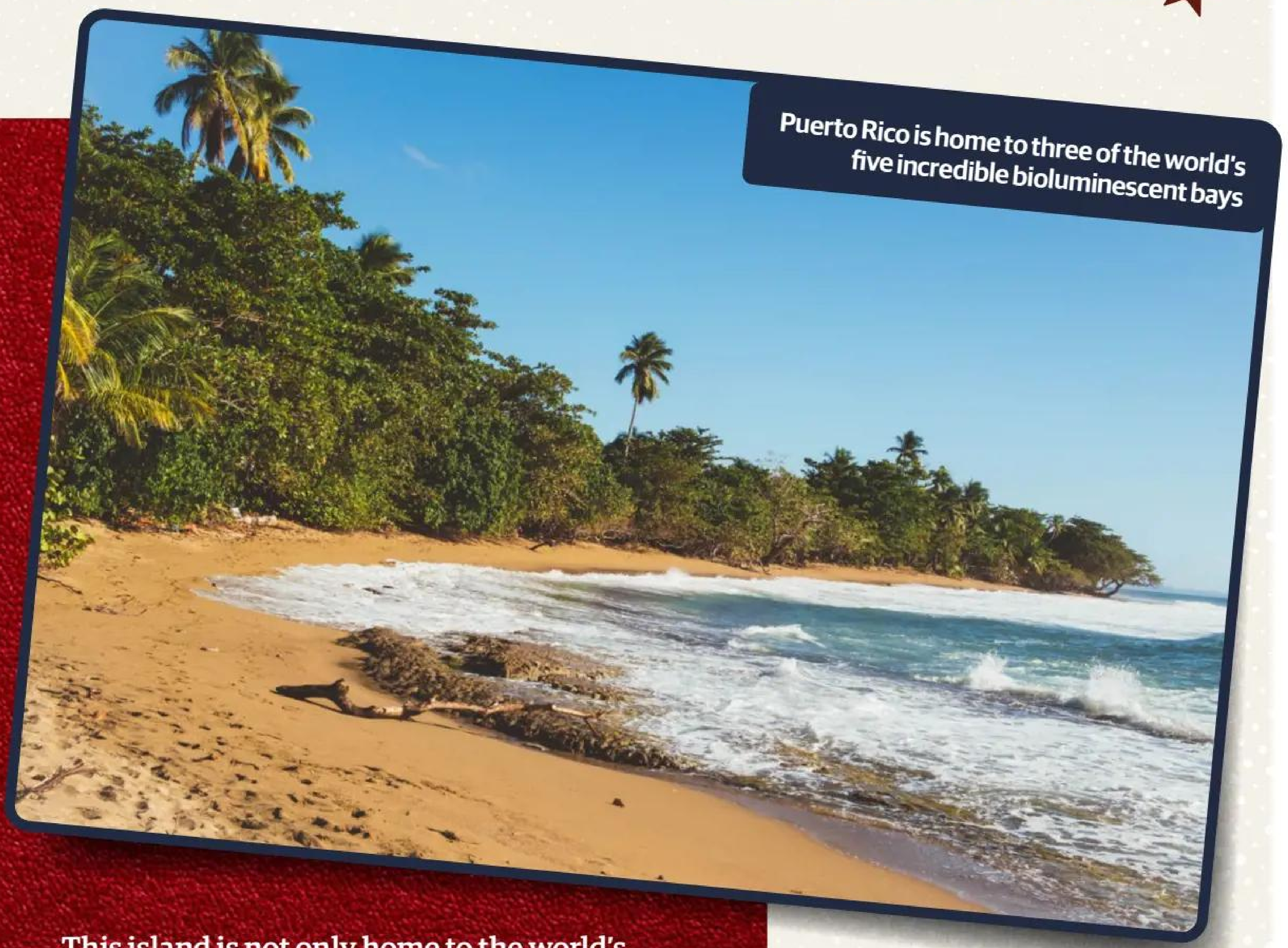
**The United States is an incredible melting pot of histories and unique cultures.** A megadiverse country, with each state boasting its own unique geography and regional characteristics, it is a land of intriguing contrasts united by a national identity, one whose flag flies above locations across the globe. The mainland states are joined by outposts and 16 territories around the world, 14 of which fall under US administration, the other two being managed by Colombia. Nine of these remain uninhabited, the five major ones we will take a closer look at below. The majority of these subnational divisions and dependent territories rely on the US both financially and militarily. Historically, territories have generally been acquired through treaty, purchase or annexation – often following costly wars.

However, they remain regarded by some as "outside the charmed circle of our own national life" (as Woodrow Wilson put it). Interestingly, many people continue to subscribe to the attitude that the territories are not a part of the country as a whole, with them often excluded from census statistics and not appearing on maps of the US. Despite being under US jurisdiction, they are not states, and to a varying degree they have their own forms of self-governance; some have become commonwealths with greater autonomy than others. As they are not states, they do not have full representation in Congress nor can they vote in a presidential election, and while the citizens of some territories are classed as nationals, others are viewed as US citizens. What all these places do have in common is a fascinating past and a rich blend of indigenous and American culture.

## Puerto Rico

Located in the Western Hemisphere, as part of the West Indies, the vibrant archipelago of Puerto Rico enjoys year-round warm weather. Under European and later US control since 1508, Puerto Rico is the oldest colony in the world, and its capital, San Juan, is the oldest city under US jurisdiction. Puerto Rico's heritage is a mix of European (namely Spanish), African and Taíno Indian, a blend reflected in its cuisine, Bomba music and dance.

Originally claimed for Spain in 1493 by Christopher Columbus, the land was relinquished to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. Islanders were given American citizenship in 1917 and the country became a commonwealth in 1951 and began to self-govern. American citizens can travel freely to and from the United States and Puerto Rico without the need of a passport (only valid government identification is required) and hold most of the same benefits, except the right to vote in any presidential elections. Citizens are also exempt from paying any federal income tax.



Puerto Rico is home to three of the world's five incredible bioluminescent bays

This island is not only home to the world's largest rum distillery and the famed coqui frog but also the El Yunque National Forest, which boasts a diverse collection of flora and fauna, including 225 species of trees and 183 animal species.

"The vibrant archipelago of Puerto Rico enjoys year-round warm weather"

## Guam

Located in the western Pacific Ocean, the island of Guam is both the largest and most populated of the Mariana Islands. Claimed by the Spanish in 1565 and remaining so until 1898 when the island became a battlefield in the Spanish - American War Guam was taken under US control after they defeated the Spanish. However, during the World War II in 1941, it was the turn of the Japanese to seize the island. By 1944, however, the US had once again reclaimed her as a US territory leaving the island to govern itself. Although Guamaninas are citizens of the US they are not permitted to vote in any presidential elections. Locals are called Chamorros, many of whom are descendants of Guam's early inhabitants who hailed from Asia, their language is distinctive and their cultural heritage and traditions reflected across the island blending together influences of the Pacific Islands, Spain and Asia. As a territory of the US, Guam has a number of important military bases across the island, it is these bases with their military personnel and their families along with tourism that make up the majority of the area's economy. Its year-round tropical climate makes it a popular holiday destination spot, boasting coral covered beaches and tallest mountain in the world (Mount Lamlam), it is also the first of the US territories to enjoy the early morning sunrise due to its proximity to the International Date Line.

Shipwrecks from both World War I and World War II are located in the Apra Harbour

Images on spread: Alamy; Getty; Adobe Stock

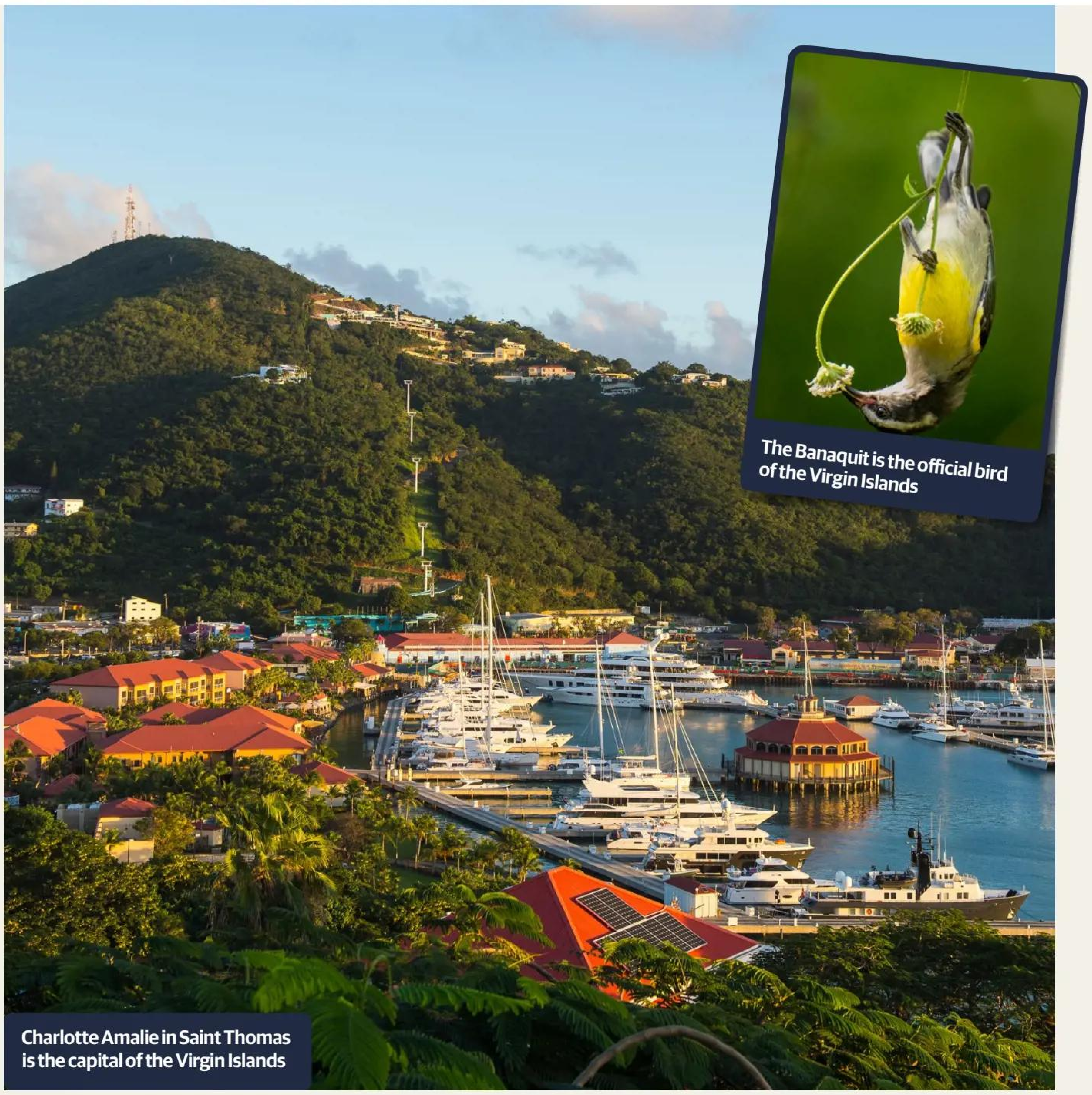
# US Virgin Islands

Once known to be a popular spot with pirates and rumoured to have some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, the US Virgin Islands are the only territory to have coasts on both the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Comprising three islands – St. Thomas, St John and St. Croix – and home to five national parks, four of which are dedicated to marine life, the US Virgin Islands make up a part of a larger archipelago of rocks, islets, islands and cays in the West Indies.

Purchased in 1917 from Denmark for $25 million, the US originally wanted to use the islands for their strategic location and deep bays, which were perfect for housing naval warships during WWI. The day of transfer on 31 March remains a day of commemoration among the island's citizens, a public holiday observed with reenactments, parades, dancing and music.

Collectively the islands boast a diverse population rooted in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. Carnivals and festivals blend the islands' vibrant and varied cultures with soca, reggae and calypso music, fantastic fayre and traditional dances like quelbe.

Interestingly, the islands are said to have been a shopping destination since 1607, and the territory is the only place in the US where people drive on the left-hand side of the road.


Charlotte Amalie in Saint Thomas is the capital of the Virgin Islands

The Banaquit is the official bird of the Virgin Islands

# American Samoa

American Samoa is home to several breathtaking waterfalls

On the eastern side of the Samoan archipelago, located in the South Pacific Ocean, American Samoa became a part of the US territories in 1899. Prior to this, archeaological evidence reveals that the islands have been inhabited by Polynesian natives for over 3,000 years, while European explorers and missionaries discovered the islands in the early 18th century.

In 1900, the US quickly established a naval station in the harbour of the administrative capital of Pago Pago on American Samoa's largest and most populated island, Tutuila. The US Navy formally ruled American Samoa until 1951 when the Department of the Interior – which protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage – took control. During WWII, US Marine personnel outnumbered the local population but majority of American Samoa's residents are indigenous today. Many young Samoan men served during WWII and the territory still maintains a high rate of military enlistment. In 1956 Peter Tali Coleman was appointed as the territory's first Governor of Samoan descent and chaired the convention that drafted the first Constitution of American Samoa. Since 1967 the territory has been self-governed, and its people are not granted US citizenship at birth, instead they are considered non-citizen US nationals and are exempt from voting in Federal Elections. This is due to the fact that Samoans oppose birthright citizenship, fearing that it could erode indigenous culture.

Since 1988, three of the seven islands; Ofu, Ta'u and Totuila make up the National Park of American Samoa, protecting key parts of the islands such as the a village of Saua on Ta'u, considered to be the birthplace of the Polynesian people and their culture.

A view of Pago Pago, the capital of American Samoa

The Micro Beach in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Scuba divers exploring a site around the Northern Mariana Islands

## Northern Mariana Islands

These unique volcanic islands are part of an archipelago of 14 that form a chain in the Pacific Ocean. The islands are made up of the peaks of an enormous underwater mountain range created over millions of years by volcanoes (some of which are still active), and the waters surrounding the islands are dotted with a further 60 underwater volcanoes. The deepest part of the ocean, where the range begins, is the Mariana Trench, and it is in these waters where many endangered species of whale, such as blue, sei, sperm and humpback, can be found, swimming alongside endangered species of turtle.

The most populated of the islands is Saipan, despite 80 percent of it being covered with tropical palms and banana, pine and plumeria trees. It alone offers 18 different dive sites for exploring its many caves, coral reefs and wrecks from World War II.

It was following the war that the United States was given control of the islands by the United Nations, although it didn't become an official territory of the US until 1975. A few years later the islands adopted their own local government and constitution, with separate judicial, executive and legislative branches making it a commonwealth.

Approximately 2,400 kilometres (1,490 miles) south of Japan, the islands are characterised by a unique blend of ancient Carolinian and Chamorron traditions combined with more modern American, German, Japanese and Spanish influences, which are particularly noticeable in the many festivals and cuisines across the islands.

> "The United States was given control of the islands by the United Nations"

## MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS

**While these locations do not have permanent, non-military populations, they are still considered part of the United States**

- **JARVIS ISLAND (ACQUIRED IN 1856)**
- **HOWLAND ISLAND (1856)**
- **BAKER ISLAND (1857)**
- **NAVASSA ISLAND (1858)**
- **JOHNSTON ATOLL (1859)**
- **KINGMAN REEF (1860)**
- **MIDWAY ATOLL (1867)**
- **WAKE ISLAND (1899)**
- **PALMYRA ATOLL (1912)**

Strawn Island Lagoon on Palmyra Atoll in the South Pacific

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# USA STATE by STATE

**Future PLC** Quay House, The Ambury, Bath, BA1 1UA

**Editorial**
Editor **Charles Ginger**
Designer **Jon Wells**
Head of Art & Design **Greg Whitaker**
Editorial Director **Jon White**
Managing Director **Grainne McKenna**

**Contributors**
Edoardo Albert, Neil Crossley, Aiden Dalby, Marc Desantis, Adam England, Tom Garner, Bee Ginger, Ailsa Harvey, Michael E. Haskew, Jessica Leggett, April Madden, Callum McKelvie, Alice Pattillo, Nikole Robinson, Emily Staniforth and Steve Wright

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**Photography**
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**Advertising**
Media packs are available on request
Commercial Director **Clare Dove**

**International**
Head of Print Licensing **Rachel Shaw**
licensing@futurenet.com
www.futurecontenthub.com

**Circulation**
Head of Newstrade **Tim Mathers**

**Production**
Head of Production **Mark Constance**
Production Project Manager **Matthew Eglinton**
Advertising Production Manager **Joanne Crosby**
Digital Editions Controller **Jason Hudson**
Production Managers **Keely Miller, Nola Cokely, Vivienne Calvert, Fran Twentyman**

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For enquiries, please email: mfcommunications@futurenet.com

**GPSR EU RP (for authorities only)**
eucomply OÜ Pärnu mnt 139b-14 11317, Tallinn, Estonia
hello@eucompliancepartner.com, +3375690241

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Chief Executive Officer **Kevin Li Ying**
Non-Executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford**
Chief Financial Officer **Sharjeel Suleman**

Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

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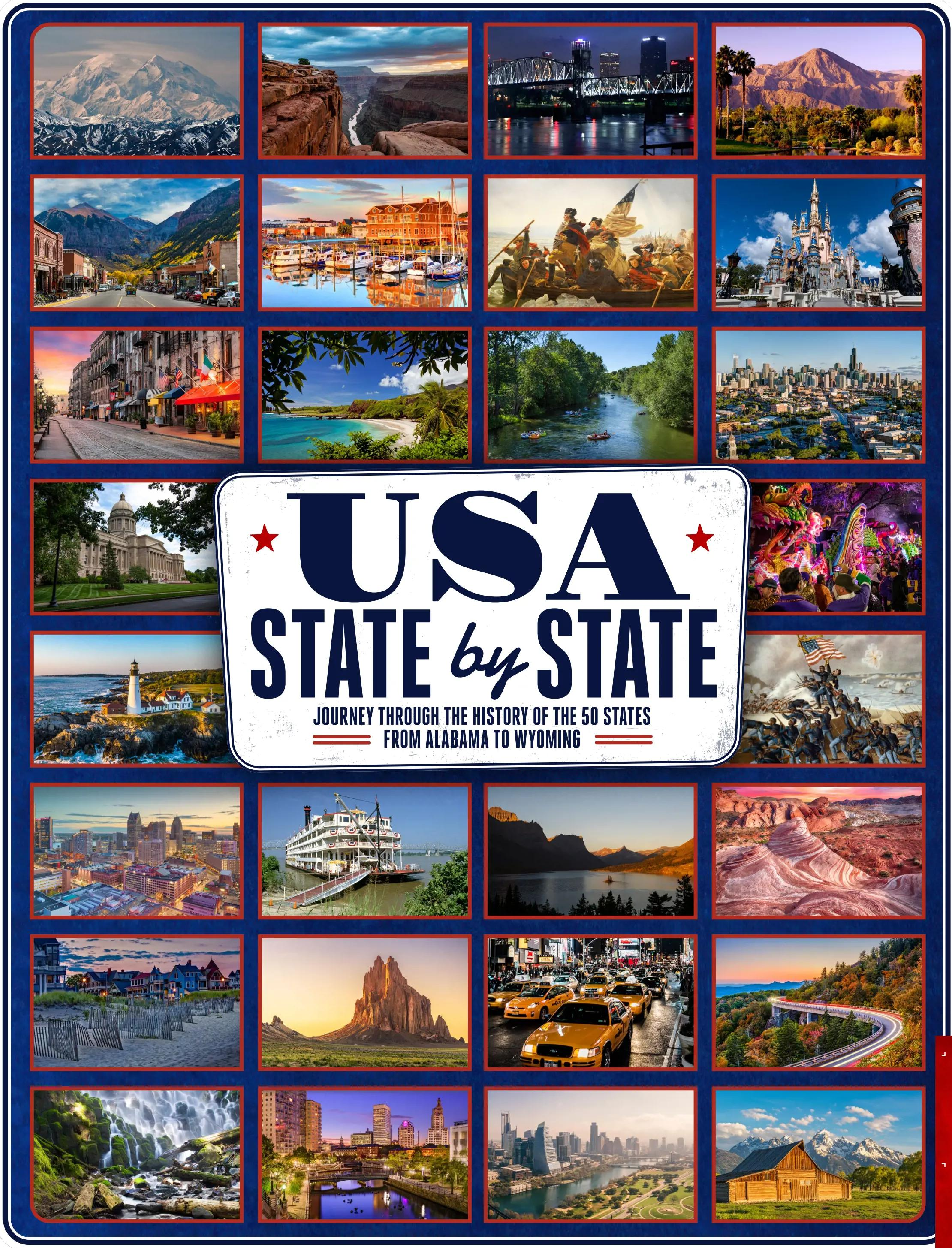

# USA
# STATE *by* STATE

JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE 50 STATES
FROM ALABAMA TO WYOMING

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